

Med. pot advocates plan day of action
Oakland resident Ed Rosenthal loses appeal; sentencing is set for June 4 in federal court.
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Have a heart!
AEF and BCEF annual benefit is coming up soon.
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Gay on cable TV
Sundance Channel's June 'OUTLoud' series.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Study: HIV+ fail to disclose status to sexual partners

by Matthew S. Bajko

A new study released today (Thursday, May 29) shows that people who are HIV-positive regularly do not disclose their HIV status to their sexual partners. The problem is especially acute among HIV-positive gay and bisexual men, who engage in "substantially higher rates of sex" than heterosexual men or women, the study found.

According to the study, published in the June edition of the *American Journal of Public Health*, 42 percent of gay and bisexual men reported having sex, either oral or anal, without disclosure of their status. In comparison, 19 percent of the heterosexual men and 17 percent of the women reported any sex without disclosure. Most of the nondisclosure occurred within non-exclusive partnerships.

The study also found that overall, 13 percent of HIV-infected individuals failed to disclose their positive status to their HIV-negative or HIV-unknown sexual partners before engaging in unprotected anal or vaginal intercourse.

During just a six-month period, the researchers estimated that 17,400 gay or bisexual men, 2,000 heterosexual men, and 2,900 women had unprotected anal or vaginal sex without disclosing to their partners that they were HIV-positive.

"While the vast majority of HIV-positive individuals either abstain, disclose, or attempt to minimize risk, the worrisome number of HIV-positive people, both gay and straight, who 'don't tell' and who 'aren't asked' while engaging in risky behavior, does call for new approaches. The most effective mechanisms are likely to be through promoting community norms that robustly say 'do ask, do tell,'" said the study's lead author, Daniel H. Ciccarone, an assistant professor of family and community medicine at the University of California, San Francisco's Urban Health Study.

In a telephone interview, Ciccarone said he is not troubled by the 42 percent figure the researchers found among gay and bisexual men because most of the sex involved behaviors that posed little risk for the transmission of HIV.

"When we looked at the specific types of activity around that 42 percent, most of those reported only oral sex or anal receptive sex. The evidence

page 16 ▶



London calling

John Pendal, representing the Hoist bar in London, England, was named International Mr. Leather 2003 on Sunday, May 25. Pendal won the top prize after beating 58 other contestants at the Congress Theatre in Chicago. For details on the 25th annual IML event, see Mister Marcus's Leather column on page 38.

City unleashes 'war' on litter in Castro

by Matthew S. Bajko

Last week's "war on litter" launch in the Castro turned into a minor embarrassment for Supervisor Bevan Dufty who is spearheading an effort to clean up the city's gay neighborhood.

On the morning of Thursday, May 22 at 6 a.m., a battalion of cleaners and mechanized broom pushers made its way up Market Street from the Ferry Building sanitizing the public spaces and plazas along the thoroughfare. Eventually, the cleanup crew descended on the Castro where they were met by Dufty and

Mayor Willie Brown.

A gathering of public works employees usually does not create much interest from the news media. So in an effort to drum up coverage of the event, an overzealous public relations person wrote up a press release that screamed "Shock and Awe' Hits Market Street Corridor."

The allusion to the recent bombing campaign in Baghdad was followed by references to Chinese military battles around 500 B.C. and large military deployments of troops and armored vehicles into battle. The release also used military metaphors such as "an arsenal

page 16 ▶



District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty, left, congratulates Sammy Brown for his excellent job of cleaning Harvey Milk Plaza. It was part of the kickoff activities held May 22 for the "Clean Patrol" demonstration project in the Castro.

Hands across California

Massage workers face persecution, regulation

by Zak Szymanski

Does the San Francisco Police Department ever step up its efforts to crack down on massage workers or escorts that operate from private homes?

According to Inspector Ed DelCarlo, who works with the SFPD vice unit, the department would never have the time or staff to pursue such crackdowns.

"There are only eight of us down here, so we work on a complaint by complaint basis, and that keeps us busy," DelCarlo told the *Bay Area Reporter*. Usually, said DelCarlo, neighbors of the person in business will notice more traffic in the area, or clients will knock on the wrong door, "and the neighbors feel compelled to make a complaint."

"But as far as going through the newspaper or Internet and selecting them at random, we don't do that," said DelCarlo.

Still, on Tuesday, May 20, a man who advertises his massage services with the B.A.R. said he received a call for an appointment to be scheduled for that afternoon. The masseur, who asked to remain anonymous, has legitimate massage training in Thailand, he said through the help of a friend and translator. He is not, however, licensed with the city.

When the man opened the door to receive his client, his guest flashed a badge, he said, and radioed to another officer. The plainclothes officer reportedly then showed the masseur a clipping from the B.A.R. which displayed the man's photograph and phone number.

The officer then reportedly asked for a passport and other identification, then cited the masseur for practicing massage without

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Milk Club dinner draws big crowd

by Cynthia Laird

The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's 25th anniversary event Thursday, May 22 drew hundreds of people to a reception and dinner to celebrate what would have been the late supervisor's 73rd birthday as progressive LGBTs and straight allies alike honored Milk and his accomplishments.

There were some moderate LGBTs on hand as well, as members of the rival Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club had a table at the dinner, a fact that did not go unnoticed by Milk Club President Robert Haaland, who noted that it was believed to be the first time Alice Club members had attended a Milk Club dinner.

"It really means a lot to the club," Haaland said as he acknowledged the Alice Club attendees from the podium.

Haaland estimated that between 350-400 people attended the reception; about 250 of those attended the dinner, he said.

Mayoral candidates Supervisor Tom Ammiano, city Treasurer Susan Leal, and former Supervisor Angela Alioto were on hand as well, along with many current elected officials including Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Sophie Maxwell, and Chris Daly; former officeholders such as Mayor Art Agnos and Supervisor Sue Bierman, and others. District Attorney Terence Hallinan had a table, and as did Kamala Harris, who hopes to unseat Hallinan in the November election.

In the last year and a half, our country has moved dramatically to the right, and core progressive values are under attack," Haaland said. He mentioned the recent revelations of AIDS researchers having to censor language in their research grants, racial profiling, and the power to preemptively invade another country as examples of this shift. "The right has a common agenda and Bush is implementing it with speed and effectiveness."

Haaland went on to say that San Francisco remains a "beacon of hope" for many, but that "the future of our city is at stake, and the future of our country's at stake."

Alluding to the mayoral election in November, Haaland also spoke of the club's support for instant runoff voting — something the Alice Club also supports [see Guest Opinion on page 6].

"The Milk Club believes the one thing we can do to make a difference — and it's going to sound strange — I believe instant runoff voting is one step toward this



Prado Gomez, right, director of Proyecto Contra Sida Por Vida, receives the Bill Kraus Award from Supervisor Tom Ammiano at the Milk Club dinner.

Rick Gerhardt

goal," he said.

IRV, said Haaland, will change the way campaigns are conducted in the city, as candidates will be more likely to resist negative tactics if they know they could be ranked by voters on the ballot. IRV would allow voters to choose up to three candidates for an office, listed in order of preference. If no candidate got over 50 percent of the first-choice votes, the candidate with the lowest count would be thrown out and the second choices on those ballots would be counted. This process would be repeated until someone managed to get over 50 percent of the vote.

"Through IRV we will avoid the infighting and bickering on the left and candidates will change the way they campaign," Haaland said.

As reported in last week's Bay Area Reporter, however, there are still contracts to be negotiated and approvals needed before IRV can be implemented, not to mention money to pay for the computer upgrades to the city's voting equipment.

Public Defender Jeff Adachi gave the keynote address, and acknowledged that he moved to San Francisco in 1979, after Milk was assassinated on November 27, 1978.

"I feel strange being up here," Adachi said. "I never knew Harvey Milk."

But Adachi noted that there was "so much history in the room" full of people who worked with Milk on everything from his own supervisory campaigns to boycotting Coors beer.

Awards were also handed out to various individuals and organizations, including:

• Denise D'Anne, who received the Harry Britt Lifetime Achievement Award. "I was restrained because of my transgender status," D'Anne told the crowd. "Unfortunately it took me so long to do more for the San Francisco LGBT community. My greatest wish is that we not have the need for la-

bels in the future."

• State Board of Equalization Chair Carole Migden (D), who received recognition for her work on behalf of domestic partners.

• Sally Buchman, a co-chair of Pride at Work, an LGBT labor organization, received the club's Volunteer of the Year Award. Buchman is also a member of the LGBT advisory committee of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission.

• Ammiano was recognized for his work on behalf of the HIV/AIDS community. He spoke of a police reform measure that is expected to be on the November ballot.

• Proyecto Contra Sida Por Vida received the Bill Kraus Award. Director Prado Gomez thanked the Milk Club on behalf of the HIV/AIDS organization that serves the Mission District, and noted the agency turns 10 years old this fall.

• Terrie Frye received a community service award.

• Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) received recognition for his work on behalf of the transgender community. "It's a thrilling experience to stand on the Assembly floor and tell them [fellow legislators] a thing or two they don't know," Leno said, recounting his efforts to secure passage of AB196 that codifies protections in the Fair Employment and Housing Act against discrimination on the basis of gender.

Leno also presented Ammiano with a certificate in appreciation for his work as president of the Board of Supervisors. "Tom, you taught me a hell of a lot," Leno said.

• The International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission was presented with an award for its work on behalf of securing the full enjoyment of human rights for all people subject to discrimination or abuse on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or HIV status. ▼

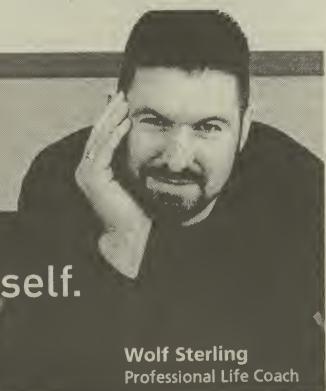
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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGBT senior housing makes changes, further

by Zak Szymanski

Those who have been following the progress of San Francisco's LGBT senior residence know that it has been a long but fruitful road for the project.

What started as Gay and Lesbian Accommodations for the Experienced in Years (GALAXY) in the 1980s was eventually derailed by the AIDS epidemic. At the turn of the century, the project reorganized under the name Rainbow Adult Community Housing, and in the past few years has incorporated as a nonprofit and has been snatching up planning grants and other sources of revenue, with an eye toward building a residential community in Hayes Valley. Last year, RACH hired its first executive director in former Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco pastor Jim Mitulski, who left the post months later to return to spiritual work.

And now, the project is once again experiencing changes, having renamed itself Openhouse, and welcoming its second executive director to lead the organization further.

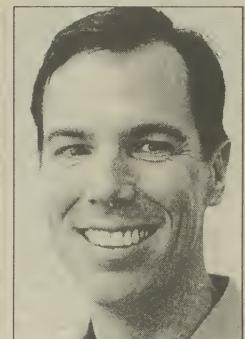
Mark Utterbach, 44, is a transplant from St. Louis, Missouri, where he was the executive director of Food Outreach, an AIDS meals program that went from a grassroots effort to a major AIDS service organization under his leadership.

The openly gay Utterbach began as executive director of San Francisco's Openhouse on April 1 at an annual salary of \$80,000. His background in financing and fundraising, said Openhouse board President Dr. Marc Adelman, makes him "just perfect" for the organization.

"We're thrilled to have him," said Adelman.

Utterbach spent more than seven years at Food Outreach, he told the Bay Area Reporter, doing work that he "absolutely loved." When he decided he was ready for a new challenge, he started to job hunt, and began the conversation with Openhouse in September 2002.

Although new to San Francisco, Utterbach is already familiar with the bureaucratic process that Openhouse will have to follow, and he credits the board with its



Openhouse director Mark Utterbach

Already the organization is one step closer to that goal; the San Francisco Planning Commission, with the backing of neighborhood and senior groups, has approved the rezoning of the land under the Fell Street off-ramp. That means that if Openhouse secures the land — a competitive bidding process for the land will begin once the ramp has been completely demolished — the organization will be able to make its dream a reality.

Such tangible progress, said Adelman, is symbolic at a time when a new executive director — and new name — are redefining the project's goals.

Openhouse changed its name from RACH, explained Adelman, to reflect its inclusiveness as a senior retirement village that is welcoming to all sexualities, cultures, and incomes. And RACH — which founders and staff pronounced "rock" — was often mispronounced by others as "ratch," or sometimes, "rake."

"It was confusing," said Adelman, who added that although the project is well on its way, community input is still needed to acquire the Octavia Boulevard site.

"With all the support we have from community groups, and the services we'll offer, we are a strong contender for the site," said Adelman, noting that Openhouse is thus far the only group in the running. "But we need the community to call elected officials in San Francisco and Sacramento, and let people know they'd like to see us there."

Utterbach concurred.

"There's just not another site that is as much of a neighborhood," said Utterbach, noting that Hayes Valley is within walking distance to the LGBT Community Center, the Castro, the Mission, South of Market, Civic Center, and major transportation lines. "We're really trying to get the political community to understand that we are a great project and a great use for that site."

"There's nothing like this anywhere in the country, and it just makes sense that the first one, to serve as a national model, would be here in San Francisco." ▶

The immediate goal of Openhouse is to secure a building site where the Fell Street off-ramp used to be on Octavia Boulevard.

For more information, visit www.openhouse-sf.org

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Appeals court set to rule on gay prisoner's case

by Ed Walsh

Supporters of gay prisoner Mark Smith are holding their collective breath.

On Tuesday, May 20, the Court of Appeal in Los Angeles heard oral arguments over whether to overturn a decision by Governor Gray Davis that blocked Smith's release. The court has 90 days to issue its ruling.

"It went well," Smith's attorney Rowan Klein, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Klein added that it was impossible for him to tell which way the three-judge panel was leaning.

Smith, 47, was convicted of second-degree murder for a 1985 homicide in Topanga Canyon, in Los Angeles County. According to court records, he was with another man who shot and drowned the victim in an argument over cocaine.

In 1999, the Board of Prison Terms, a tough law-and-order panel that has approved parole for only about 1 percent of eligible candidates, ordered Smith released. Davis had 30 days to halt the parole. If the governor had done nothing by the end of the 30 days, Smith would have been freed.

Smith got the word on the eve of the 30-day deadline, however, that Davis had blocked his parole. In a statement, Davis wrote that Smith was "a person with little regard for human life."

The governor once vowed to

block the parole of all convicted killers and has only allowed for the release of five, all of whom, like Smith, were convicted of second-degree murder.

In March 2002, a superior court judge in Los Angeles overturned Davis's decision and ordered Smith's release, suggesting that Davis confused Smith's role in the crime.

Before Smith could be paroled, Davis once again thwarted his release by appealing it through the courts. The California Supreme Court turned down the opportunity to rule on the appeal and turned it over to the Court of Appeal.

When it passed on the case, the high court suggested that the appeals court decide the Smith case mindful of its ruling on the case of Robert Rosenkrantz, another gay inmate who is fighting the governor for parole. The Supreme Court decided in December not to interfere with Davis's decision that

halted Rosenkrantz's release.

Like Rosenkrantz, Smith has high-powered support. The judge who presided over his original trial now strongly endorses his parole. Santa Cruz County Superior Court Judge Mike Barton is among those who have lobbied for Smith's release. Barton noted that while he was a prosecutor in Los Angeles, Smith came forward with information that helped convict a man who killed a toddler. Barton said that he was impressed because Smith put himself at risk and asked for nothing in return. Smith told the *B.A.R.* that he felt compelled to come forward because he believed that the life of another child that the man had access to was in danger.

Smith is in ill health as he suffers from AIDS, dementia, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, and cancer. Smith told the *B.A.R.* that at times his struggle for life has been motivated by his hope to die free. ▶

Men's group holds benefit

by Matthew S. Bajko

To celebrate its 15th anniversary, the Men's Associated Exchange is throwing itself a birthday cocktail party to raise money for a local AIDS event and reveal a new logo.

The group, known as MAX, is geared toward gay men in their 30s, 40s, and 50s looking for a welcoming environment outside of the club and bar scene. The group mixes social and philanthropic events as a way to bring men from various parts of the community together.

"The joke has always been if someone is new in town or has broken up with his boyfriend they join MAX for a couple of years," said Keith Sjöholm.

Sjöholm, newly arrived to the city in 1999, did just that. He now serves as the group's marketing director and a board member.

MAX began in 1988 as a mem-

bership-supported fraternal organization. It is nonpartisan and not-for-profit. The group boasts that with more than 500 dues-paying members, it is one of the largest gay social organizations in the country.

As the group has matured, its members decided their old, corporate-looking logo needed a makeover. The new logo, to be revealed during the party, will be more colorful and less serious looking.

"The idea is just to make us more approachable," explained Sjöholm.

And to improve MAX's ability to attract men to its events. The group does everything from monthly cocktail parties and fundraisers to hiking trips and nights out to the opera.

"There is a lot of competition from different gay groups in the Bay Area. We compete with Gold's Gym even," explained Sjöholm of the difficulty in attracting people

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SFPD's Pride Alliance to honor Cook, Friday

by Cynthia Laird

The San Francisco Police Department's Pride Alliance, an employee organization of LGBT officers, will hold its first-ever benefit Tuesday, June 10 and will recognize fallen Officer Jon C. Cook and openly gay Police Commissioner Wayne Friday.

SFPD Inspector Lea Miltello, a co-chair of the alliance, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the organization will launch a scholarship fund in Cook's memory. Cook, 38, died last June 12 from injuries he sustained in a collision involving two marked police cars. He was the first openly gay cop killed in the line of duty. Earlier this month, the Police Commission held a ceremony and Cook's name was added to the "Wall of Honor," which contains the names of SFPD officers who have died in the line of duty.

Miltello said that it is hoped the Officer Jon C. Cook Scholarship Fund will give LGBT youth an opportunity to further their education.

Cook's partner Jared Strawderman will introduce the establishment of the scholarship fund.

The upcoming event is expected to draw many of the Police Department's LGBT officers.



Police Commissioner Wayne Friday

"There are over 200 LGBT officers in the department, and 90 percent of them are members of the alliance," Miltello said.

Friday, who has served on the Police Commission for several years, is also the *B.A.R.*'s political columnist. He will be receiving the Officer Raymond L. Benson Community Service Award. Friday is receiving the award for his efforts on behalf of LGBT officers, Miltello said.

Additionally, the Pride Alliance will bestow an award on one of its members, Miltello noted. That recipient will be announced at the event.

KPIX-TV's Hank Plante will emcee the event, organizers said.

The first openly lesbian and gay officers joined the SFPD in the 1970s. Miltello and alliance co-chair Officer Scott Hoey-Custock noted that as the number of officers increased and moved up the ranks in the department, the need for a support system grew. LGBT officers faced their own special challenges in the department concerning promotions, assignments, and in particular the AIDS epidemic that claimed more than 80 percent of the gay male officers.

The Pride Alliance was started last July – with the support of the Police Commission – to ensure that the interests of LGBT members of the department are protected on matters concerning promotions, assignments to specialized units, and other issues that affect the membership. There are several employee associations within the department, including organizations of African Americans, Hispanic, and Asian American department personnel.

The Pride Alliance benefit will be held at Mecca Restaurant, 2029 Market Street, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 per person. The event is open to interested community members, and people can RSVP by calling Peter Poulos at (415) 677-8688. Poulos told the *B.A.R.* that he and the restaurant are donating all services for the benefit. ▶

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Santa Cruz Pride Sunday

by Zak Szymanski

South this weekend for the 29th annual Santa Cruz Pride celebration, a festive and popular event that includes the city's Dyke March, parade, and other parties and gatherings.

This year's Pride theme is "Peace Through Pride," and the celebration is dedicated to LGBT pioneers.

One of the few free events of its kind in the country, Santa Cruz Pride "promises to be an uplifting and inspirational day," according to organizers. "It is a time for us to reflect on the contributions we make and the advances we have made during the past year. It is a time for us to celebrate our own diversity and the diversity that makes Santa Cruz such a very special place to live."

The activities begin on Saturday, May 31 with the Dyke March at 4 p.m.; this year, a special "Dykes with Tykes" contingent will meet for face painting before joining the main march at the post office.

Traditional "Pink Saturday" events will follow, most notably, the Pride-sponsored concert at Veterans Hall downtown at 8 p.m. Featuring dance, music, poetry, and DJs from the local Santa Cruz community and beyond, the Pink Saturday concert is \$10; tickets are available at the door.

Guests can greet Sunday, June 1 with a not-too-early wake-up for the annual Pride Parade, which kicks off at 11 a.m. and proceeds down Pacific Avenue to San Lorenzo Park.

Parade grand marshals are the city's two out, gay elected officials: Assemblyman John Laird (D-

page 19 ▶

Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender FAMILY EXPO

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- Financial Planning Issues
- Home-buying and Financing
- Adoption and Donor Insemination
- Nonprofit Services for LGBT Families
- And More...

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS • ROOM 300

10-10:45: Legal Issues Affecting LGBT Families
Alma Soongi Beck, Esq., Estate Planning and Domestic Partnership Planning Practice
Frederick Hertz, Esq., Property Issues During Formation and Dissolution of Same Sex Relationships
Courtney Joslin, Esq., Staff Attorney, National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR)
Dr. Davina Kotulski & Molly McKay, Board Members, Marriage Equality California (MECA)

11-11:45: Financial Planning for Domestic Partners
Rachel Robasciotti, Financial Planner
Traci Hollander, Insurance Agent

12-12:45: Family Building - Adoption and Donor Insemination: Making the Dream of Family a Reality
Billy Brimmer, A Better Way Adoption Agency
Alice Ruby, The Sperm Bank of California

1-1:45: Homes for Homos: An LGBT-Oriented Seminar
Leslie Bandle, Home Mortgage Loan Officer
Rob Mills, Real Estate Broker

2-2:45: Local Nonprofit Services for LGBT Children, Youth & Families
Our Family Coalition (OFC)
Children of Lesbians & Gays Everywhere (COLAGE)
Parents & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), San Francisco
Parent's Place, a Jewish Family and Children's Services Program

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They're at it again

Fresh off the Rick Santorum scandal (in which the Republican senator from Pennsylvania compared consensual gay sex to bigamy, polygamy, adultery, and incest), some conservative Republican and Democratic House members on May 21 reintroduced a proposed constitutional amendment that would permanently deny marriage rights to same-sex couples. It's not likely that such a measure will pass because it is very difficult to ratify a constitutional amendment. A similar proposal was introduced and died in the House last year, despite a push in July 2001 by antigay groups.

There has not been a companion proposal introduced in the Senate, which is just the first step in a lengthy and complex process in amending the U.S. Constitution. Proposed constitutional amendments must pass both houses of Congress by a two-thirds vote and then the amendment must be ratified by three-quarters of the states.

The proposal, as Human Rights Campaign Executive Director Elizabeth Birch said in a statement, "will most likely equate to little more than a mean-spirited sideshow." Within the next several weeks, the U.S. Supreme Court is expected to issue its decision in the Texas sodomy case, and if the Texas law is thrown out, it would be a huge blow to social conservatives and a gigantic step on the road to equality for gay and lesbian couples. Supreme Court observers are optimistic that the justices will throw out the Texas law, possibly overturning *Bowers v. Hardwick* in the process.

The House members who introduced the constitutional amendment are Republican Representatives Marilyn Musgrave (Colorado), Jo Ann Davis (Virginia), and David Vitter (Louisiana). Democratic co-sponsors are Ralph M. Hall (Texas), Collin C. Peterson (Minnesota), and Mike McIntyre (North Carolina). Missing from that list is Republican Representative Mark Foley of Florida, who last week held a conference call with select Florida political reporters to state that he would neither confirm nor deny he's gay. Foley's non-denial denial came as the result of a May 8 column in the alternative *New Times* (Flori-

da) newspaper in which author Bob Norman basically outed Foley. Whatever his sexual orientation, Foley has been pretty good on gay issues. He attended a vigil for murdered Wyoming college student Matthew Shepard in 1998 and has backed anti-discrimination legislation, increased AIDS funding, and medical coverage for domestic partners, according to Norman's column. Foley did, however, vote for the Defense of Marriage Act in 1996.

That homophobic bit of legislation states that same-sex couples can't be legally married. In light of that, we would argue, what's the point of having a constitutional amendment? Same-sex marriages already can't be federally recognized. Consenting heterosexual adults have the right to marry whomever they choose – the same

should apply to same-sex couples, but mainstream society has not accepted this fact yet. We're hopeful that one day that will change, and the Supreme Court's ruling on *Texas v. Lawrence*, if the law is overturned, would be a great starting point.

We know that the fear of such a ruling is what prompted Santorum's blatantly antigay remarks in his interview with the Associated Press last month. He admitted as much. We suspect that fear of gay couples – unfounded, we might add – is what prompted last week's introduction of the gay marriage ban constitutional amendment. The similarities between same-sex couples and married couples far outweigh the differences, Birch said in HRC's news release. The amendment is divisive and discriminatory, and should not be acted upon by Congress. ▼

Editorial



IRV is the way to go

by Robert Haaland, Rich Kowalewski, and Theresa Sparks

Politics in San Francisco is a contact sport, and queer politics here often seems especially fractious. LGBT San Franciscans take politics seriously and fight hard for the values we believe in, and on the whole that is a good thing. Too often, however, in the heat of battle over this or that issue, we tend to lose sight of the common values that unite us. Particularly at a time when these common values are threatened by a national administration that is busily promoting policies that are fundamentally antithetical to our interests and ideals, it is important to remember that we San Francisco Democrats have much in common.

Our president may believe that America can only be made safe by asserting a global hegemony based on fear and intimidation, but we know that unilateralism cannot be the core principle of a successful foreign policy and that it does not make us safer. Our Congress may believe that cutting taxes on the wealthiest Americans while abandoning long-standing commitments to children, seniors, the disabled, and the down-trodden makes good fiscal sense, but we know that widening income inequality and swelling social injustice are not signs of a society's good health. And our attorney general may believe that certain Americans have too much liberty, but we know that our liberty is a unique and precious bequest for which our forebears struggled and sometimes died, and we will not part with it lightly.

Over the past few months, our two clubs, the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club and the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club, have actively sought out opportuni-

ties to work together and build trust. Earlier in the year, we worked together to oppose the Bush administration's military adventurism in Iraq. We have also worked together to support timely implementation and public education of instant runoff voting.

IRV seems to us particularly well-suited to these troubled times, when it is so important for progressives, liberals, and moderates to be able to disagree without losing sight of our shared commonalities. By forcing candidates to campaign not only for first-choice votes, but also for the second- and third-choice votes of voters who support other candidates, IRV encourages campaigns to focus on issues over personalities and promotes more positive campaigning than has been the norm in most past elections.

IRV is not a complex system. It is a different system that provides an incentive for candidates to focus on the issues and to form coalitions; and provides an incentive for voters to participate because their vote counts even if their first choice candidate is defeated. Also, since IRV only requires one election, it gives more people a chance to choose who represents them because a candidate is chosen in an election where the turnout is highest. IRV has been successfully running in many other countries around the world, such as Ireland and Australia, as well as other cities around the country. And the list is growing with pending legislation and voter initiatives supporting IRV in over a dozen states.

Unlike the many current political changes that negatively affect our daily lives, IRV will profoundly change the political culture of San Francisco in a positive way. That's why so many LGBT leaders and groups like As-

semblyman Mark Leno, city Treasurer Susan Leal, Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Bevan Dufty, BART Director Tom Radulovich, school board member Mark Sanchez, and the Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic clubs, signed onto a letter asking the Department of Elections, City Attorney Dennis Herrera, board President Matt Gonzalez, and Secretary of State Kevin Shelley to implement IRV.

We do not doubt that there will be occasions in the future when we will disagree, and on those occasions we will continue to vigorously champion the causes that seem to each of us to offer the best hope of a better future. However, let us pledge that even in disagreement, we will remember the fundamental goals we share and that we will find ways to bring out the best in each other

and, more importantly, bring out the best in the citizens of San Francisco. Together we can create a San Francisco not of hate and fear, but of hope; a city of integrity that provides healthcare to youth and seniors, good public schools for our children, jobs to those who need them, and affordable housing for all.

Disagreements need not make us enemies, and temporary differences should never blind us to the possibilities of working together for common values. IRV helps remind us of that. It helps remind us that this is not business as usual. ▼

Guest Opinion

Robert Haaland is president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club; Rich Kowalewski and Theresa Sparks are co-chairs of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club.

LETTERS

New plan a must for center

As socially responsible LGBT entrepreneurs, our newly minted company, the Connell Whittaker Group, is reinvesting a percentage of profits from a recent successful venture back into the community, via the LGBT Community Center. We urge other businesses to include the community center in their contributions planning.

We believe the center is one of the few places where the eclectic, post-modern, LGBT/queer community comes together as a whole. This kind of integrative commons is very precious, for we here in San Francisco, and for LGBT peoples around the globe, who look to us for leadership.

Viewed as a start-up, the revenue and management issues at the center are congruent with the growing pains of most new enterprises, be they for-profit or nonprofit. The introduction of new leadership, and we hope, a new business plan, to attract self-sustaining earned revenue, as well as charitable giving, is an opportunity and a significant challenge. It is crucial now for supporters of the center to hang in, dig down, and nurture this important facility – while it reboots financial, management, and public participation plans.

In that process we hope to see the accountability conduits at the center evolve. Without question, the founding board members deserve enormous credit and thanks for getting the place built and open against considerable odds. We suggest, among the many things on the new to-do list for the board, is: to decide to grow into a responsive entity that can formally solicit, and act, on input from the community – perhaps via forums, or perhaps via voting membership – and certainly increase the diversity of the composition of the board as soon as candidates can be recruited.

In addition to increased accountability in the near future, the focus for right now is solid enterprise planning. It will all take time. There will be more issues during this crisis period. There will be more changes. All under the watchful scrutiny of the community and media, which can be a healthy, if challenging, environment in which to execute.

You have our support during the crisis, friends on the board, and we will trust that you will come forth this year with a sound plan, invite all to comment on it, and welcome the community to participate in its execution.

Kathleen Connell and Jaye Whittaker
The Connell Whittaker Group, LLC
San Francisco

Give your tax return to the center

I'll never forget opening day of the LGBT Community Center. I cried with joy, overwhelmed with gratefulness to live in one of the few cities on earth where I can be out, safe, and have a full life. Since opening day, I've attended several events at the center. From pre-opening night of the Gay & Lesbian Film Festival to the Bicycle Coalition's Golden Wheel Awards, the center is providing a beautiful and welcoming service to this town. When I read in the *Bay Area Reporter* about the financial crisis ("LGBT center deficit is \$642K," May 1), I was terrified about the possibility of losing this community treasure, and I jumped on the center's Web site (www.sfcenter.org) to donate \$250 of my tax return. I gave what I could to help ensure that the center can survive and continue to be a beacon of hope for many future generations of queers. I urge you to do the same.

Kate White
San Francisco

Good points, but...

Tommi Avicoli Mecca raises some good points about "the will of the voters" [Mailstrom, May 22] and the courts. Unfortunately, he is incorrect about the basis for those court decisions. Regarding California's Proposition 187, the anti-immigrant measure; San Francisco's Proposition G, which would have prevented owners from moving into their own property; or San Francisco's Proposition H, which would have precluded landlords from recovering capital improvement costs from their tenants, the courts ruled them unconstitutional because they violated the rights of the minority. Courts have traditionally protected the minority from the tyranny of the majority, a principle that is embedded in our Constitution. (The Constitution allows a mere 34 senators from the least populated states to sustain a presidential veto, even if the remaining 66 senators and the entire House of Representatives vote to override it.)

Civil rights gains for minorities have almost always begun in the courts and have rarely been obtained at the ballot box. Sacramento legislators are not defying the will of the electorate by expanding legal rights for same-sex domestic partners. Instead, they are acting like the courts in protecting the minority from the tyranny of the majority.

Regarding the recent court decision about Proposition N, Care Not Cash, which is being appealed, the judge did not say that its provisions were illegal or that it violated anyone's rights. Rather, he ruled that only

the San Francisco County Board of Supervisors could enact its provisions. Hence, that board can implement the will of the voters without violating the law. By passing the legislation, the board will also begin long needed improvements in how San Francisco helps the homeless.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

Howard Dean won't fade away

Regarding Wayne Friday's column in the May 22 issue: With all due respect, the Howard Dean movement is no fade and, in fact, is continuing to grow by hundreds every day. Dean has over 25,000 "Netroots" activists with over 100,000 signed up for the campaign updates. Governor Howard Dean will not fade and his support is growing among elected officials by the day. He might not be popular among the other Democratic contenders, but that is obviously because he is the unconventional politician – his word means something. Dean opposed the war on Iraq because, as Al Gore said, nobody should support a preemptive attack because it sets a frightening precedent. Moreover, Dean is not a fringe politician as his opponents and the pundits attempt to paint him. He represents what the Democratic Party should represent and will have to represent in order to continue to be a threat to the Republicans: equal rights for all and fiscal prudence.

I hope the other Democratic contenders, pundits, and reporters will stop bashing Dean for being a politician who stands for the issues and instead focus on the actual policies and defeating Bush – the real enemy – in 2004. This Democratic infighting is exactly what Bush needs to ensure a victory in 2004.

Adam Borelli
Berkeley, California

Pay attention to voters

Thank you for printing Tommi Avicoli Mecca's continued disdain of the voter-approved Care Not Cash in the pages of your paper.

The good thing is, a majority of your readers are very familiar with Mr. Avicoli Mecca and know quite well, that if the shoe were on the other foot, and Mr. Avicoli Mecca had worked hard with his progressive radical leftist buddies to get an initiative on the ballot (and passed by the voters) but later found to be unconstitutional in the court of law (reminder: Care Not Cash was not declared unconstitutional but the judge determined that the law requires the Board of Supervisors, not the voters, to set payoffs to the indigent), he would be the first person standing on the steps of City Hall yelling "the will of the voters" and "the fucking injustice of the system" through his battery operated bullhorn.

Maybe Mr. Avicoli Mecca and the Board of Supervisors should take this opportunity to start paying attention to what the majority of the voters are saying.

James "Jimmer" Cassiol
San Francisco

Retool that gaydar

Chris Braun needs to retool his gaydar if he felt most of the people accompanying Gavin Newsom on his recent merchant walk in the Castro were not gay [Mailstrom, May 15]. The current and past presidents of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro and the current president of the Eureka Valley Promotion Association, who escorted the mayoral candidate, are all openly gay. (Neither of those organizations endorses political candidates.) Many other individuals who were part of the walk are gay and reside in the district. Additionally, Newsom chatted quite pleasantly with Susan Leal's few supporters.

More importantly, while each of us should support the candidate of our choice, it is inappropriate to demonize an individual based on his sexual orientation. It is especially wrong to do so when that person has a long and active history of supporting our community. Newsom has advocated for domestic partner benefits, transgender benefits, supports the Board of Equalization's granting of equal treatment to surviving domestic partners regarding residential property tax assessments, and has campaigned actively for elected gay officials like Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Assemblyman Mark Leno. Newsom's campaign staff includes many openly gay and lesbian individuals in key positions. His volunteer staff also has many gays and lesbians, most of whom live in San Francisco and many of whom live in District 8.

Newsom's economic program is the best of any of the mayoral candidates and that is another reason why he deserves the support of our community. An economically thriving San Francisco will mean more and better jobs for LGBTs, which will allow us to remain in a city where we can safely be ourselves, contribute to the common good, and be treated with respect and dignity. It will also restore funding to the many nonprofits who provide needed assistance to many in our community.

David Rachleff
San Francisco

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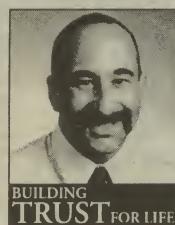
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Communing with the community

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

The other day I got a sunburn. I'm not all that upset about it, though, as I got it being part of the transgender community. It was for a fabulous event, that brought together at least a couple hundred folks of various stripes – and while not everyone there may have felt any self-identity with the word "transgender," I think those who attended would agree that there was a sense of community in the air, a vibe, if you will, of belonging.

It was the Transgender Picnic, held in San Francisco Sunday, May 18 at Dolores Park.

It's a hard thing to define, "community," especially when one looks at a group as disparate as transgender people. We tend to be a group comprised solely of loners, who often define themselves based more of what they aren't rather than what they are.

Getting a group of transgender people together to try and get consensus can be like the proverbial herding of cats, as five people are just as likely to provide you with 10 definitions of transgender.

It was only a couple days after the aforementioned picnic that this disunion was brought full force. One friend of mine was talking about the difficulty with finding a place where she would belong, where her sense of being would be welcomed, and how few were truly out there when she went looking.

She had a point.

I think there is a reason it can be so difficult for many transgender people to be a part of some nascent community, and I've already alluded to it. To really be a part of a community, one needs to have a sense of belonging. To be transgender in today's world means living a life nearly void of such a sense.

I grew up in an industrial town on the edge of East Los Angeles, where you were expected to be one of two things: a factory worker or the wife of a factory worker. Gender roles were tightly enforced in the schools of my youth, from "boys sit to the left, girls to the right" up to the physical education program and into the non-choice between shop classes and home economics. Your choice of class was determined by whether your permanent record said "boy" or "girl." No extra check boxes need apply.

I have a copy of those records, where the office staff was kind



Christine Smith

enough to correct the checked boxes on them, only a couple of decades late. But I digress.

It was more than just in the curriculum where this disunion appeared. My daily routine included plenty of attacks – physical and verbal – from the other kids. I wasn't even trying to challenge any gender binaries at the time, but there was still something that others picked up on, some stench that told them that there was something different about me, something queer.

It wasn't that I didn't try to fit in, mind you. I did my best to try and be "one of the boys," and all of that. In the end, it was an act, and I'm not sure anyone really fell for it.

Eventually I was done with school and entered the job market, only to find trouble belonging there as well. From the constant challenges I faced transitioning in a retail job, to the joy of facing job interviews post-transition. Interviews are difficult enough without knowing that the interviewer just wants to get the freak out of their office as soon as possible.

The places I fit in best were on the fringes, with a handful of other misfits and freaks who also had trouble fitting in. Even then I had to be careful, and be ever vigilant, lest I end up an outcast from a circle of outcasts.

I even faced this lack of belonging around some other transgender people, from transsexuals who wanted to challenge my "realness," or cross-dressers who felt they knew what I was better than I did. There are plenty of examples I could rattle off of transgender people who have worked against the community, offering other transfolk a slap in the face when a handshake would have been more

appropriate.

In the end, I've often found solace being my own good company, a community of one, where I could fit in no matter who or what I was. I'm glad I've been able to move beyond that by and large, but I think that is where many of us end up – unable or unwilling to find a place where there are others who can and will take us for what we are.

That's sad, really. I wonder how many would have just stayed away from that same picnic I mentioned a few paragraphs ago, just because of the years of rejection that preceded it.

We have a diverse and vibrant community, and that is more of a strength than a weakness. Our ranks contain people from all walks of life, all cultures, and with any number of talents. We have so much we can learn from each other if we can work as one.

When we find ourselves in one place – for Pride events, or film festivals, or, yes, picnics – we show our strength. There is a lot of power just waiting to be tapped, but we need to work as a community to truly realize the potential that we can share.

It's not to say that one should give themselves up to fall into a community that is, quite frankly, still very nascent. It's not perfect, by any means, and there are plenty of potential pitfalls to be had, just like any community.

Nevertheless, while you need not live there, it can be an awful nice place to visit from time to time. Just remember to pack your sunscreen. ▼

Gwen Smith wants to apologize to anyone who got hit by her Frisbee. She can be found on the Web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Mix and mingle at CUAV annual event

by Zak Szymanski

Anyone who has ever been the victim of harassment, antigay violence, or domestic abuse has been grateful to know that organizations like Community United Against Violence exist; for more than 20 years, CUAV has worked with law enforcement, mainstream society, and the LGBT community to prevent and heal the wounds of hatred wherever it may surface.

Like many nonprofits, CUAV is facing a financial crunch, which makes this year's fundraiser reception even more important to attend; the annual event takes place Thursday, June 5, at the Blue Room Gallery in San Francisco from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with an awards reception, music, food, drink, and silent auction.

Always a mix of activist inspiration and fun festivities, CUAV's event this year features co-chairs Jewelle Gomez and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), and special

guest Sylvia Guerrero, the mother of slain transgender teenager Gwen Araujo. Civil rights attorney Gloria Allred will also be honored.

Tickets are \$75 per person and proceeds will aid CUAV's programs, including a 24-hour support line; free counseling, legal advocacy, and emergency assistance to survivors of violence; and educational speakers bureaus.

To purchase tickets for CUAV's annual event, or for more information, e-mail creeklyn@hotmail.com or call (415) 395-9543. ▼

POLITICS

Bush's 'little bitty' tax cut good for the rich

by Wayne Friday

If you are a gay or lesbian millionaire with a load of dividend-paying stocks or happen to be legally married with a bunch of kids, you're likely going to love the Bush tax cut approved by the House and the U.S. Senate (passed only with the help of Vice President **Dick Cheney**'s tie-breaking vote) last week.

Unfortunately, however, the average reader of this column will probably not feel much reason to celebrate the \$350 billion tax cut that Congress approved – and that President **George Bush** is expected to sign this week.

I can't help but point out that it was Bush himself who only a few weeks ago was demanding a tax cut package of \$726 billion while ridiculing the proposed \$350 billion as being a "little bitty" one. Last week, however, Bush was boasting that his slim congressional win was a "victory for all Americans; every family in America."

Really? Take a look. To be sure, the tax cut benefits mostly the very rich – those holding hundreds of thousands in dividend-paying stocks and interest bearing bonds – because the tax bracket for wealthy investors lowers dramatically, assuring the rich investors who are already wealthy that they will pay far less taxes on their dividends. But, hey, this is a Bush-Republican tax cut, should we expect it any other way?

The others who will feel a relief are those families with several children: an extra \$400 credit (added to the current \$600) per child for those dependents and an actual check will soon be in the mail to those families by the end of the summer, we are assured. So, you married and have a house full of kids? Or, maybe a millionaire gay man or lesbian? If so, you're set, and you owe George W. Bush a personal note of thanks.

Want to hear the downside of Dubya's tax cut? Look for drastic cuts in aid to the states from D.C. (California, facing a \$35 billion deficit, will be reduced to getting only \$2 billion in fed money this year); there is no guarantee whatsoever that the new Bush tax cut will create jobs and spur economic growth. (Can I point out that the national unemployment rate is now at 6 percent, the highest since 1992?) Besides, the new Bush tax cut will most certainly increase the federal budget deficit, making Medicare and even Social Security more insecure. But, hell, the rich won't need either Medicare or Social Security anyway, will they?

The heart of the tax measure is the major cut in taxation of investment earnings; the rich will enjoy a new tax rate on capital gains that will be reduced from 20 percent to 15 percent. Not bad, huh?

House Democrats attacked the "election-time" tax cut, with Representative **Nancy Pelosi** (D-San Francisco), the House minority leader, calling the bill a "tragedy" that will worsen the deficit and do nothing to help the lagging economy. "This Bush tax cut is the unraveling of fiscal responsibility; in-

stead of investing in our children, we are indebting them," Pelosi said last week.

Republicans in control of Congress predictably praised the tax cut as a "tonic" that is needed for an economy that remains very sluggish three years into Bush's appointed presidency. Indeed, the tax break probably couldn't have come at a better time for Bush and those Republicans who fund his re-election effort. After helping his party collect a record \$22 million in one dinner appearance last week in Washington, the president says he is now ready to turn his attention to his own re-election drive next year and what better way to start it off than to help enrich his own contributors?

Even before Bush signs the new tax cut bill, the politically savvy **Karl Rove** announced that the president would begin his re-election money hunt with a seven-stop fundraising blitz across the country in June that will include stops in Los Angeles and an unannounced "San Francisco area" event on June 27. Bush operatives, led by Rove, reportedly plan to raise as much as \$200 million for the president's re-election drive. Bush raked in a record \$100 million for his 2000 campaign, and **Ari Fleischer**, the presidential press secretary, said last week that he feels the money should be coming in smoothly because "we are hopeful that the president's strong leadership and bold vision for the future will again attract strong support from the public."

If Bush's wealthy friends who benefited the most from last week's \$350 billion tax cut do their part and dutifully kick in their share as expected, Bush should have little problem raising the expected \$200 million Rove wants to spend next year. A great country, isn't it?

Politics and people

Mike Sullivan, the chairperson of Plan C, the influential civic and political group in San Francisco, advised us that the group last week overwhelmingly endorsed Supervisor **Gavin Newsom** for mayor. **Kamala Harris** edged out **Bill Fazio** in the group's balloting for the district attorney race, but both candidates fell short of gaining the necessary 60 percent of the group's vote needed for an official endorsement. District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** received one – you read it right, one – vote from the 900-member Plan C.

Incidentally, both the San Francisco Firefighters Association and state Assembly Speaker **Herb Wesson** (D-Los Angeles) last week lined up behind the Harris for D.A. effort.

And coming soon (June 9) to a bookstore near you: *Living History*, the long-awaited and sure to be best-selling **Hillary Rodham Clinton** memoir covering her eight years in the White House (Simon & Schuster, \$28). Okay, I admit it, I'm an unabashed Hillary fan and yes, I take a lot of crap for it, but watch her, she's our first woman president, and you'd better remember I told you so, my



Hillary Clinton



Our Man Friday

friends.

When U.S. Treasurer **Rosario Marin** announced last week that she was resigning the largely ceremonial post to return to California it was a sure sign that Karl Rove had convinced her to run against Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D-California) next year. Boxer's chances looking better every day if the best Rove & Co. can dig up is an unknown former mayor of Huntington Park; even the likable millionaire Congressman **Doug Ose** (R-Sacramento), the GOP's best hope against Boxer next year, saw the light and wimped out last week, deciding it wasn't worth the effort (or the money) as Boxer proves again what a formidable campaigner and effective public servant she really is.

Meanwhile, don't look for the recall effort of Governor **Gray Davis** (D) to succeed (truth is, they're having trouble getting those signatures, despite what you may read elsewhere), but political insiders are telling me that even if it were to succeed and Davis were actually recalled, the Democrats would surely retaliate by offering up a sure winner for the post, the most popular politician in the state, Senator **Dianne Feinstein** (D-California).

And remember **Dan Lungren**, the antigay, ultra-conservative former state attorney general who lost to Davis by more than 1.4 million votes in 1998? Well, he's coming back – Lungren will be a candidate for Congress in the Sacramento area's Third District, being vacated by the retiring Doug Ose.

Even as they mull pay cuts and layoffs for other city workers, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors will get a 300 percent pay raise effective July 1, thanks to city voters who approved a raise last November and the Civil Service Commission, which set the new \$112,320 annual salary (up from the current \$37,585). Too big a raise? I don't think so. Hey, it's a lousy job and most of them deserve it anyway.

State Senator **Jackie Speier** (D-Hillsborough) who represents part of San Francisco, along with Assemblyman **Joe Simitian** (D-Palo Alto) have been awarded the Legislator of the Year awards for 2002-03 from the Junior League of California's Public Affairs Committee.

Mayoral candidates **Tom Ammiano**, **Susan Leal**, and **Gavin Newsom** all received good receptions from the crowd at Sunday's Carnaval parade on Mission Street.

And how was your week? ▼

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San Francisco HIV Health Services Planning Council

The community planning group that oversees the prioritization and allocation of Ryan White CARE Act Title I and II funds (used to provide services for people living with HIV/AIDS in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin Counties) invites and encourages members of the public to attend their meetings and provide public comment.

The Planning Council usually meets the fourth Monday of each month from 4:30 to 7:30 P.M. in the Mayor's Conference Room (Room 201), San Francisco City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett (on Van Ness Avenue, between Grove and McAllister Streets.)

Meeting info: www.SFCareCouncil.org
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Defending Foley's closet

by Dale Carpenter

Mark Foley, a pro-gay Republican congressman from Florida, has a gay problem. He's running for the U.S. Senate next year and leads the race for the GOP nomination in a state trending Republican. But his campaign has been dogged by persistent and widespread rumors that the attractive, unmarried 48-year-old is gay. Foley has decided to deal with the issue by declaring he won't discuss it. His strategy entails deception, wrongly invokes "privacy," and exploits a double standard. Nevertheless, it is defensible.

Let's start with the inherent deception. In a recent 20-minute teleconference with Florida political reporters, Foley would neither confirm nor deny he is gay.

There are two things to note about this non-denial denial. First, if Foley is gay, it is an attempt to perpetuate the polite public fiction that he's not. The world presumes everyone is heterosexual. The closeted gay person, by knowing this presumption exists and remaining silent, consciously confirms the lie. That silent confirmation is itself a deception.

Second, the deception is unconvincing. A heterosexual, asked whether he's straight, would have no hesitation declaring it. A gay man, trying to avoid a bald-faced lie while perpetuating it, would be



Bao Rother

Rep. Mark Foley at Matthew Shepard memorial

coy. Foley was being coy.

Next consider the dubious claim of privacy. Foley submits that a question regarding a politician's sexual orientation is an invasion of his privacy and so needn't be answered. "That is the kind of question that I do think is highly inappropriate," he said. "There are certain things we shouldn't discuss in public."

Well, now. We don't need to know whether Foley and his partner (if any) hang from the atrium chandelier by moonlight. The particulars of his sex life are his business.

But since when is a politician's sexual orientation private? Nobody thinks George W. Bush could plausibly neither confirm nor deny that he's hitched to a person named Laura. Politicians constantly and everywhere declare their sexual orientation by parading their spouses before us like meat at a USDA inspection.

We think nothing of that. You just can't define as "private" something that almost the whole of the culture you live in defines as not private.

You can't keep doing that unless, of course, you live under one standard of public decorum for straight people and another for gays. Foley denounced those who were spreading rumors about him. "Whatever their motives," he said, "I can only say I find these tactics revolting and unforgivable."

Ouch. Revolting and unforgivable. That's the kind of language you reserve for rumors that you eat little children. Does Foley think a rumor that one is gay is such a terrible thing? Does that mean he thinks that being gay itself is a terrible thing? I don't think so. His voting record on gay issues alone belies the charge that he suffers such internalized self-hatred.

Instead, Foley is capitalizing politically on a pervasive double standard in the public discussion

of homosexuality. A politician would never respond to the "tactic" of gossiping that he is *heterosexual* by denouncing it as revolting and unforgivable. Such a bizarre claim would meet with public bewilderment. But declaring off-limits any discussion of one's homosexuality registers powerfully with a public still queasy about the subject. It is a way of shaming, and thus silencing, the gossip-mongers.

Despite all that, I am still deeply sympathetic to Foley's dilemma and think his awkward attempt to downplay his presumed homosexuality is defensible. The strong temptation is to say that all gay people everywhere should immediately come out, but the world is not so black and white.

All of Foley's options involve great risk. If he is gay and acknowledges it, he would almost certainly lose the Florida Republican Senate primary, which is dominated by Christian conservatives already unhappy with Foley's pro-gay legislative record.

That would be an enormous opportunity lost. It would assure that a less gay-friendly, or even hostile, candidate would win the primary and likely go on to win the Senate seat. Instead of the gay-friendly but closeted Foley speaking out and voting for us in the Republican Senate caucus, we'd likely have an unfriendly straight guy speaking out and voting against us.

If Foley is gay and denies it, however, reporters would follow him around like Gary Hart hoping to disprove him. When discovered, he would be unmasked not just as gay, but as a gay deceiver.

Between the Scylla of outright lying and the Charybdis of complete candor, Foley is navigating an uneasy middle course to the Senate. The now audible whispers about his sexual orientation may still be enough to defeat him. His bet is that most Florida voters can live with the open secret that he is gay as long as it isn't forthrightly acknowledged.

Once he's elected and has earned the trust of the voters, perhaps then he can come out. That's been the path of many openly gay officeholders, like Barney Frank.

It's all an accommodation to homophobia that many of us, in many places in this country, have fortunately left behind. But the fact that it might actually work is a sign of progress in the South, where once a politician would have had to deny his homosexuality loudly and unequivocally in order to win.

I don't much like it, and I bet Foley doesn't either. I doubt it will succeed. But if it gets us a shot at a Senator Foley, we can live with it. ▼

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Cecil Williams named Pride grand marshal

by Zak Szymanski

dd one more grand marshal to the list of Pride Parade honorees; the San Francisco LGBT Pride Board of Directors has selected the Reverend Cecil Williams of Glide Memorial Church to lead the June 29 parade in recognition of his lifetime commitment to activism and social justice.

For more than 40 years, Williams has been recognized as a religious and community trailblazer, offering hope and assistance to marginalized communities. Advocating for LGBT inclusion in churches since the 1960s, Williams was described early on by *Time* magazine as a dynamic minister who created "jazz worship services with hippies and homosexuals."

In 1979, Williams delivered a eulogy for slain Supervisor Harvey Milk to a crowd of 10,000 at the corner of Castro and Market streets. In 1989, he created the Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project, and became known for facilitating numerous memorials and funerals of gay men who died of AIDS when their families and churches rejected them. In 1991, Glide became the first church in the country to begin testing for



Reverend Cecil Williams

HIV as an adjunct to the Sunday church services. In 1994, he led the funeral service for openly gay *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter Randy Shilts, a service that was protested by the infamous Fred Phelps.

Still operating meals programs and health and spirituality outreach to thousands, Williams never seems to seek recognition, although he has received several awards for his work. And this year's recognition by the Pride board makes him the first person ever to receive a "Lifetime Achievement" grand marshal honor.

"I am honored and very proud that the LGBT community has selected me to be their Lifetime

Achievement grand marshal," said a statement from Williams. "Our journey together in fighting for human rights is not over ... I am proud to stand with my brothers and sisters of this community."

Williams was selected by the Pride board at the board's last meeting on May 6. Under Pride policy, the board can appoint grand marshals, although it hasn't done so for a number of years. But the significance of this year's Pride — it marks 25 years since Milk was assassinated, and its theme, "You've gotta give them hope" — pays tributes to Milk's famous words — prompted the board to create the "Lifetime Achievement" category of grand marshal.

"As the board began to discuss possible marshals, everyone who spoke — a remarkable range of people — had so much to say about Cecil," said Pride Executive Director Teddy Witherington. "He has been out on a limb for the queer community. This is a man who was performing same-sex commitment ceremonies in the 1960s. I mean, that's incredible."

Williams joins grand marshals Vicki Marlene, Marina Gatto, Hank Wilson, and Terry Person-Harris as local community honorees. Celebrity grand marshals this year are Armistead Maupin and Marga Gomez. ▼

Bush signs global AIDS bill

by Liz Highleyman

resident George Bush signed bipartisan legislation authorizing \$15 billion for AIDS relief for developing countries on Tuesday, May 27.

The bill, passed by the House on May 1 and the Senate on May 16, will provide \$1.5 billion over five years for countries in Africa and the Caribbean; 55 percent of the aid will go for treatment, 20 percent for prevention, 15 percent for palliative care, and 10 percent for care of orphans. The new legislation is intended to provide anti-HIV drugs for 2 million people, prevent 7 million new HIV infections, and care for 10 million people with AIDS and orphans.

Up to \$1 billion of the fiscal year 2004 allocation may go to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. Treatment advocates expressed disappointment that more money was not slated for the global fund, as opposed to bilateral programs with specific countries.

"We welcome the new bilateral initiative, but implore Congress to at least allocate an additional \$1.5 billion for the global AIDS fund," said Paul Davis of Health GAP. "The global fund is already operating and is producing impressive results after only two grant rounds, but now faces near total bankruptcy."

U.S. contributions to the global fund may not exceed one-third of total fund donations. Bush had pressured legislators to pass the bill in time for him to sign before he departs next week for a meeting of the G8 nations in Evian, France, where he plans to encourage other countries to also allocate more money for AIDS relief.

"America does not have to take on the HIV/AIDS crisis alone. But

as is often the case, American leadership — political or financial — is necessary if our friends around the world are to bear their fair share of the burden," said Representative Henry Hyde (R-Illinois), who introduced the bill in the House along with Representative Tom Lantos (D-San Mateo).

The AIDS bill promotes the Ugandan "ABC" prevention model of abstinence, being faithful, and condoms. A controversial House amendment allocated one-third of the prevention money to programs that promote abstinence only. An effort by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-California) to strike the abstinence amendment from the Senate version of the bill was unsuccessful.

Bill co-sponsor Representative Barbara Lee (D-Oakland) expressed concern about the spending restrictions. "As the Ugandan model has shown, we need to be flexible in creating a response to AIDS in every country, and we should leave those decisions to ex-

perts in the field," she said.

A Senate amendment introduced by Senators Joseph Biden (D-Delaware) and Rick Santorum (R-Pennsylvania) — who recently angered gays and civil libertarians with his remarks about private sexual behavior — provides for additional debt relief for countries hardest hit by HIV/AIDS.

The new funding is the latest step in implementing a global HIV/AIDS relief plan proposed by Bush in his January State of the Union address. But before the new funds can be spent, Congress must include enough money in its budget appropriations bill to cover the newly approved expenditure.

"The promises made in the bill must be matched by real resources," said House Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco). "Prevention and treatment require money. We must now appropriate the funds necessary to enact this plan and demonstrate the depth of our commitment to the world." ▼

Men's group

◀ page 4

to participate in events. "Everything a gay man can look at in the Bay Area as an activity is competition for us and MAX is competition for them."

The biggest draw for men to join MAX is the chance to meet other men. While the group does have some couples, most members are single.

"We have events during daylight and not in a club or bar. For gay men wanting to meet other gay men that is a nice alternative," said Sjoholm.

Anyone interested in joining the group — annual dues are \$36 —

or simply finding out more about MAX is invited to attend its anniversary bash from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, May 30 at the Elevation Salon and Cafe, 451 Bush Street in San Francisco. Admission to the party costs \$20.

The event will feature special entertainment, complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, and go-go boys. Attendees are encouraged to come dressed in 1960s drag. Proceeds from the party will support "Help is on the Way 9: Red Hot Broadway" on July 28 at the Palace of Fine Arts. The concert is a benefit for five Bay Area AIDS service agencies.

For more information about MAX, visit its Web site at www.maxonline.org. ▼



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Gay vets pay Memorial Day tribute



Rick Gerhardt

Mario Benfield, commander of the Alexander Hamilton Post 448 of the American Legion, carries the post's colors during Memorial Day ceremonies Monday, May 26 at the San Francisco National Cemetery in the Presidio. Those who died during wartime were honored through words, music, flowers, and a 21-gun salute. Mayor Willie Brown, Supervisor Bevan Duffy, and Attorney General Bill Lockyer were among the dignitaries who attended the ceremony.

Put on your poker face for AEF's annual event

by Zak Szymanski

If not for the impeccable gay fashion and more tasteful style, guests at the AIDS Emergency Fund event on Tuesday, June 10 may think they're in Las Vegas.

"Casino Royale 21" is a tribute to AEF's 21 years of service; the organization makes cash grants to disabled individuals with HIV/AIDS in need of financial assistance. AEF's sister project, the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund, makes similar grants to low-income women debilitated by that disease.

Audrey Joseph's new hot spot, Club Mezzanine, will be transformed into professional-style casino featuring blackjack, craps, poker, and roulette stations where winners earn raffle tickets to vie for prizes. The evening includes a martini bar hosted by Absolut vodka, and lounge music by DJ Pusspuss to accompany the gambling, socializing, and shopping for silent auction items. Delicacies and beverages will be provided by some of the Bay Area's finest restaurants and wineries. Additionally, a live auction hosted by Lenny Broberg will give away tickets for a 10-day cruise, a Palm Springs weekend, a New York getaway, and a Vegas trip. Honorary co-chairs for the event are Bay Area Reporter publisher Bob Ross and KTVU reporter and breast cancer survivor Faith Fancher.

AEF's Casino Royale also serves as the organization's annual



From left, Roczane Enriquez, Christina Sexton, and Susan Wiederholt paint giant hearts for the AIDS Emergency Fund's upcoming benefit. The hearts will also be used as part of the organization's Pride Parade float. The painters were part of a crew from Cal State Hayward who participated in a recent "Hands On San Francisco" volunteer effort.

awards celebration, and local community heroes will be recognized for their contributions. Former AEF board President Ralph Petersen will receive the Hank Cook Outstanding Service Award; the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will receive the Fred Skar Outstanding Volunteer Award; club creator and promoter Joseph will receive the George Burgess Founder's Award; David Smith Fox will be honored, posthumously, with the Rick Salinas Outstanding Contribution Award; and Gail Defferari and Susan Sachs of Universal Care will take home the Hearts of Gold Award.

"The annual AEF gala is a way to pay tribute to our key donors, sponsors, and volunteers," said AEF Executive Director Mike Smith. "In addition to the gambling, food, and auction, we will be honoring five of the people and groups that have made our work more effective over the past year."

Tickets to Casino Royale are \$125, the bulk of which always goes directly to people in need.

Club Mezzanine is located at 444 Jessie Street, between 5th and 6th streets, in the South of Market District. The festivities run from 6-10 p.m.

To purchase tickets, call (415) 558-6999, ext. 3, or e-mail ChrisM@aef-sf.org. More information is available at www.aids-emergencyfund.org. ▼

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SUSTIVA (efavirenz) in combination with other antiretroviral agents is indicated for the treatment of HIV-1 infection.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

Safety Information

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams. These feelings tend to go away after taking the medication for a few weeks. Mild to moderate rash is another common side-effect. A small number of patients have reported severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. There have been a few reports of suicide but SUSTIVA has not been established as the cause. SUSTIVA should not be taken with Hismanal® (astemizole), Propulsid® (cisapride), Versed® (midazolam), Halcion® (triazolam) or ergot derivatives. Tell your doctor about any medications or herbal products (particularly St. John's wort) that you are taking. Women should not become pregnant or breast-feed while taking SUSTIVA.

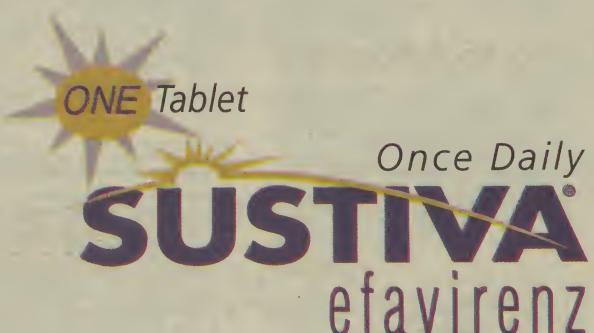
Please see important information about SUSTIVA on next page.



T4-K0003 11/02

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Maryland gov. signs medical marijuana law

by Liz Highleyman

Maryland Governor Robert Ehrlich became the first Republican to sign medical marijuana legislation when he inked the bill last Thursday, May 22. The new law does not legalize medical cannabis, but does permit use of the medical necessity defense and reduces the penalty for medical use to a \$100 fine with no jail time.

Maryland is the second state (after Hawaii) to pass such a law through the legislative process rather than by ballot initiative.

Marijuana law reform advocates also suffered a loss last week when the Connecticut House of Representatives on May 21 defeated a bill that would have allowed physicians to certify a patient's need for marijuana and allowed patients to grow a small number of cannabis plants.

As he did with a Nevada marijuana initiative last fall, John Walters of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy, opposed the state bills, calling them a cynical effort to use sick people to promote a pro-drug agenda.

"Maryland's elected officials have rightly rejected the position of a hostile White House and drug czar, who believe that marijuana-using cancer patients should be incarcerated like common criminals," said Robert Kampia of the Marijuana Policy Project. "My organization

is proud to be part of a medical marijuana 'conspiracy' that includes the governments of Canada and Holland, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Public Health Association, and now nine U.S. states."

Canada is currently in the process of reforming its marijuana laws, although a decriminalization bill scheduled to be introduced by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien earlier this month was delayed after Justice Minister Martin Cauchon met with U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, who has expressed serious concerns about the measure. Even as the bill stalled however, a superior court judge in Ontario ruled on May 16 that Canada already effectively has no laws prohibiting marijuana possession.

In March, a new law went into effect in the Netherlands allowing pharmacists to fill prescriptions for medicinal cannabis. The Netherlands is the first country to treat marijuana like other prescription medications, including coverage under national health insurance. The Dutch government will license several official cannabis growers to supply the country's pharmacies.

Other developments

In other medical marijuana news, the House Government Reform Committee last week adjourned without voting on

HR2086, the ONDCP Reauthorization Act. Activists strongly oppose two provisions of the bill. One would allow the federal government to use money budgeted for antidrug ads to campaign against state medical marijuana initiatives and other attempts at drug law reform; current law prohibits use of the antidrug media budget for partisan political purposes.

The second controversial provision would divert 5 percent of funds from local and state law enforcement to Drug Enforcement Administration efforts in states that permit medical use of cannabis.

Finally, medical cannabis activists held demonstrations on Tuesday, May 27, at federal buildings nationwide to protest the arrest of San Bernardino medical marijuana patients Gary and Anna Barrett; Gary Barrett has Crohn's disease, while Anna Barrett suffers chronic pain due to a fall from a balcony. On May 21, the two longtime medical cannabis advocates were arrested at their home by DEA agents pursuant to a federal indictment on five cultivation-related counts involving several hundred plants.

The federal action came soon after a superior court judge in Victorville, California ruled earlier this month that the Barretts were legitimate medical cannabis users

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Rx ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

SUSTIVA® (sus-TEE-vah)

[efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)] capsules and tablets

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with SUSTIVA.

Please also read the section "MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA."

Read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. This leaflet provides a summary about SUSTIVA and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information is not meant to take the place of talking with your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used in combination with other medicines to help treat infection with Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of anti-HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (viral load). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells, a type of immune cell in blood. SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

SUSTIVA does not cure HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections and complications. Therefore, it is very important that you stay under the care of your doctor.

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Therefore, continue to practice safe sex, and do not share dirty needles.

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?

Serious psychiatric problems. A small number of patients experience severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior while taking SUSTIVA. Some patients have thoughts of suicide and a few have actually committed suicide. These problems tend to occur more often in patients who have had mental illness. Contact your doctor right away if you think you are having these psychiatric symptoms, so your doctor can decide if you should continue to take SUSTIVA.

Common side effects: Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and unusual dreams during treatment with SUSTIVA. These side effects may be reduced if you take SUSTIVA at night on an empty stomach. They may also go away after you have taken the medicine for a few weeks. If you have these common side effects, such as dizziness, it does not mean that you will also have serious psychiatric problems, such as severe depression, strange thoughts, or angry behavior. Tell your doctor right away if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. It is possible that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs.

If you have side effects, such as trouble concentrating, or are drowsy, avoid activities that may be dangerous, such as driving or operating machinery.

Rash is common. Rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor right away. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. Changes in body fat. Changes in body fat develop in some patients taking anti-HIV medicine. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), in the breasts, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these fat changes are not known.

Tell your doctor or healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

Contact your doctor before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects or for any other reason.

This is not a complete list of side effects possible with SUSTIVA. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a more complete list of side effects of SUSTIVA and all the medicines you will take.

How should I take SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

General Information

- You should take SUSTIVA on an empty stomach, preferably at bedtime.
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food increases the amount of medicine in your body, which may increase the frequency of side effects.
- Taking SUSTIVA with food may make some side effects less bothersome.
- SUSTIVA must be taken in combination with other anti-HIV medicines. If you take only SUSTIVA, the medicine may stop working.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away, unless it is almost time for your next dose. Do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best time to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- If you believe you took more than the prescribed amount of SUSTIVA, contact your local Poison Control Center or emergency room right away.
- Tell your doctor if you start any new medicine or change how you take old ones. Your doctor may need adjustment.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.
- Your doctor may want to do blood tests to check for certain side effects while you take SUSTIVA.
- The dose of SUSTIVA capsules for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see Can children take SUSTIVA?).
- The dose of SUSTIVA tablets for adults is 600 mg (one tablet) once a day by mouth.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Some children are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to the active ingredient, efavirenz, or to any of the inactive ingredients. Your doctor and pharmacist have a list of the inactive ingredients.

What should I avoid while taking SUSTIVA?

- Women taking SUSTIVA should not become pregnant. Serious birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. Tell your doctor right away if you are pregnant. Also talk with your doctor if you want to become pregnant.
- Women should not rely only on hormone-based birth control, such as pills, injections, or implants, because SUSTIVA may make these contraceptives ineffective. Women must use a reliable form of barrier contraception, such as a condom or diaphragm, even if they are not taking SUSTIVA.
- Do not breast-feed if you are taking SUSTIVA. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that mothers with HIV not breast-feed because they can pass the HIV through their milk to the baby. Also, SUSTIVA may pass through breast milk and cause serious harm to the baby. Talk with your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You may need to stop breast-feeding or use a different medicine.
- Taking SUSTIVA with alcohol or other medicines causing similar side effects as SUSTIVA, such as drowsiness, may increase those side effects.
- Do not take any other medicines without checking with your doctor. These medicines include prescription and non-prescription medicines and herbal products, especially St. John's wort.

Before using SUSTIVA, tell your doctor if you

- have problems with your liver, or have hepatitis. Your doctor may want to do tests to check your liver while you take SUSTIVA.
- have ever had mental illness or are using drugs or alcohol.

What important information should I know about taking other medicines with SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines, including ones for HIV, and cause serious side effects. Your doctor may change your other medicines or change their doses. Other medicines, including herbal products, may affect SUSTIVA. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.
- Bring all your prescription and over-the-counter medicines as well as any herbal remedies that you are taking when you see a doctor, or make a list of them, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

Taking SUSTIVA with St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort is not recommended. Talk with your doctor if you are taking or are planning to take St. John's wort. Taking St. John's wort may decrease SUSTIVA levels and lead to increased viral load and possible resistance to SUSTIVA or cross-resistance to other anti-HIV drugs.

MEDICINES YOU SHOULD NOT TAKE WITH SUSTIVA

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA**.

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be replaced with another medicine when taken with SUSTIVA**.

- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir)
- Darzalex® (daratumumab)
- The following medicines may need to have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA**.

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin)
- Methadone

These are not all the medicines that may cause problems if you take SUSTIVA. Be sure to tell your doctor about all medicines that you take.

General advice about SUSTIVA:

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Do not use SUSTIVA for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give SUSTIVA to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59° to 86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

The leaflet summarizes the most important information about SUSTIVA. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for the full prescribing information about SUSTIVA, or you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com> or call 1-800-426-7644.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Ed Rosenthal loses mistrial appeal; day of action set for June 4

by Liz Highleyman

Medical cannabis activists have called for a national day of action on Wednesday, June 4, the date of Ed Rosenthal's sentencing hearing in federal court in San Francisco.

A federal judge denied on May 16 Rosenthal's motion for a new trial on marijuana cultivation charges.

Rosenthal, 58, who was deputized by the city of Oakland to grow cannabis for local medical patients under the auspices of Proposition 215, was convicted in January on three federal cultivation counts. His case became a *cause célèbre* after a majority of the jurors, claiming they had not been permitted to hear evidence about the medical aspects of the case, denounced the verdict and called for a new trial.

According to Rosenthal's motion for a mistrial, federal Judge Charles Breyer refused to allow the defense to present important facts about the case — including Rosenthal's belief that he was acting legally under state and local law — excluded jurors who had favorable opinions about medical cannabis, and improperly instructed the jury that it was legally obligated to return a guilty verdict. Rosenthal also argued that the trial was marked by juror misconduct after two jurors admitted seeking outside legal advice about jury nullification.

"I should never have been put into a position of feeling forced to convict someone who I did not think should be convicted," said juror Marney Craig. "The law says that everyone has a right to a fair trial, and this was certainly not a fair trial."

But Breyer denied the mistrial petition, stating that federal drug laws supersede state and local ordinances.

"Since the Civil War this country has recognized that whatever the views of local governments, such views do not control the enforcement of federal law," he wrote in his opinion. He also said that his instructions did not "preclude the jury from bringing its sense of justice to bear on its ver-



Ed Rosenthal is expected to be sentenced Wednesday, June 4.

dict, nor did they divest the jury of its inalienable right to nullify."

Since January, Rosenthal has been free on bail, but on June 4 he could be sentenced to as little as the mandatory minimum of five years or as long as 85 years, according to the Drug Reform Coordination Network. Rosenthal has said that he plans to appeal Breyer's ruling to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeal. However, since a mistrial was not granted, only the original evidence may be presented as part of the appeal.

"My message to all Californians is: you have the right to acquit, and if you voted for Proposition 215, have an obligation to acquit," said Rosenthal. "Jurors need to know their rights when they head into the courtroom so others won't go to jail."

Americans for Safe Access has called a national day of action on Wednesday to protest heavy-handed federal crackdowns on medical cannabis patients and providers. In San Francisco, a protest will take place at the federal courthouse at Turk and Larkin streets beginning at 1 p.m.

ASA is also encouraging activists nationwide to participate in demonstrations outside their local federal courthouses to educate prospective jurors about their rights and to ask them to acquit in

all marijuana cases because they could be medical.

"We hope people will get out there and meet the 80 percent of Americans who support medical cannabis," said ASA's Hilary McQuie. "Let them know they have to vote twice for medical marijuana — once in the ballot box and once in the jury box."

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HIV study

◀ page 1

We have shows some of the nondisclosure is related to other risk reduction strategies," he said. "We are not trying to be truly alarmist tellers of bad news. This is textured."

Among the researchers involved in the study, there was some disagreement on how to interpret the data. Study co-author, David E. Kanouse, a senior behavioral scientist at RAND Health, a nonprofit research institute in Santa Barbara, said he found the 42 percent "very interesting" because it suggests the gay community has somewhat different norms that apply when it comes to disclosure.

"Number one, anybody who has sex with someone else in the gay community is aware of the fact HIV is infecting that community. That person has a reasonable expectation they might encounter the virus whether or not someone discloses their HIV status," said Kanouse in a telephone interview. "It makes it possible that disclosure is really optional because everybody is supposed to be protecting themselves."

The study used a national sample consisting of 606 gay and bisexual men, 287 heterosexual men, and 504 heterosexual women, all HIV-positive and all receiving medical care. Participants were asked about their disclosure practices over the prior six-month period with exclusive and non-exclusive sexual partners, together with questions about their sexual activities and the serostatus of their sexual partners.

Among those who had engaged in sex without disclosure, gay and bisexual men were much more likely to be involved in a non-exclusive partnership as op-

posed to an exclusive partnership. This was not true for heterosexual men and women.

"For gay and bisexual men, the type of relationship matters. Those who have a single sexual partner whom they consider to be their primary relationship partner are very likely to have disclosed their HIV status to that person. Most of the sex without disclosure occurs in non-exclusive partnerships," said Kanouse.

The study also found that while 16 percent of gay or bisexual men reported unprotected anal or vaginal sex without disclosure, only 3.2 percent of the men reported unprotected anal insertive sex to ejaculation without disclosure in the past six months.

"Our results suggest that many HIV-infected gay and bisexual men tailor their sexual activity to reduce the risk that they will transmit HIV to casual partners to whom they do not disclose. Public health messages have urged all gay men to 'act as if every partner is HIV-positive.' Such messages may have had the unintended consequence of making disclosure seem optional and non-disclosure acceptable in some encounters," said Kanouse.

Among the gay and bisexual men who had serodiscordant partnerships, most of the unprotected sex without disclosure occurred in non-exclusive partnerships with partners of unknown HIV status, the study found. Of the 13.8 percent of serodiscordant gay or bisexual partnerships in which there was unprotected sex without disclosure, more than three quarters (10.9 percent) involved non-exclusive partners whose HIV status was unknown, as opposed to partners known to be HIV-negative.

"Additional study is needed to explore the circumstances in which gay and bisexual men may not feel the need to disclose and to

assess the very real risk for miscommunication in those circumstances," Kanouse said.

The study does not identify individual reasons for non-disclosure, but notes that significant disincentives to disclosure exist at the socio-cultural level.

"Barriers to disclosure of HIV status such as stigma and fears of rejection, discrimination, and violence persist and efforts to address the problem of non-disclosure are likely to fail unless they speak to these very personal concerns," said Ciccarone.

Those who work in HIV prevention said they are not surprised by the study's conclusions. For many, it is no surprise that gay men have unprotected sex with people they are not in relationships with.

And the issue of disclosure has always been a key part of prevention work with HIV positive people. Shana Krochmal, spokeswoman for the Stop AIDS Project, said along with questions about treatment, disclosure is a key concern for gay and bisexual men.

She said what did strike her about the study's results is that it appears no one, whether negative or positive, is asking about their partner's HIV status.

"I would keep an eye on the fact that this is a study of positive people and nondisclosure is mutual. No one was asking and no one was telling," said Krochmal. "That more than anything speaks to this ongoing need for comprehensive prevention that talks realistically about sex and expectations for sex and really the realities of being negative and positive and interacting with each other."

The full name of the study is "Sex Without Disclosure of Positive HIV Serostatus in a U.S. Probability Sample of Persons Receiving Medical Care for HIV Infection." ▼

Litter in Castro

◀ page 1

of cleaning tools," efforts "to fight trash" and "corridors to be similarly blitzed" to refer to what was a community cleanup program.

"This is a war on litter, illegal dumping, and graffiti in business districts," Mohammed Nur, deputy director of DPW operations, is quoted as saying.

Coming just days prior to the Memorial Day holiday, when Americans around the nation honored those who have died in battle and fought in America's wars, Dufty found the release's language to be in bad taste and had the release rewritten. Only problem was an aide for the supervisor had e-mailed it out to at least one news organization.

When asked about it by a reporter, Dufty said he was disappointed that anyone had seen the first draft of the release.

"I told them don't put my

name on a press release that has that type of language. It is inappropriate," Dufty said. "I find it bizarre someone would take this language and use it commercially and associate it for a neighborhood cleanup."

A spokesman for the Department of Public Works faxed the revised version of the release to the Bay Area Reporter after being asked about the language in the draft release originally sent.

"The person got carried away. It was not the right choice of words," Alexander Mamak, director of communications and public affairs for DPW, said of the language in the initial release.

Even after the press release was changed – the "Shock and Awe" headline was dropped and gone was any direct mention of military battles – it still reads like an invasion took place on the city's streets.

And the arsenal of cleaning tools that blitzed the commercial corridors – the Tennant 830

sweeper, ATLV 4300 Litter Vac, and the GEM Electric Utility Vehicles – sounds more like sanitized cousins to Bradley fighting machines and convoys of military vehicles used in Iraq. The release details how the Clean Patrol includes, "flamer for attacking weeds, steam pressure washers, bucket trucks, flushers, green machines, [and] anti-graffiti vans."

Dufy, who spent Monday at the Memorial Day service in the Presidio, said the press release mix-up was "my office's screw-up" and said he was sorry if it had offended anyone.

"I don't need a gimmick that is associated with killing people to communicate to District 8 residents a better vision for the neighborhood. I apologize to anyone who was upset by this," said Dufty.

Instead of a military-styled invasion, Dufty is calling for a "Castro Renaissance" for the commercial and residential heart of the city's gay community. Dufty, an

next page ►

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OBITUARIES

Landon Richard Bireley

November 28, 1959 — May 14, 2003

Bireley, Landon Richard — Passed away peacefully in his sleep just before midnight on May 14, 2003, with his sister, Donna, by his side. Landon was preceded in death by his mother Jackie Chambers Donnell and his father Jimmie Bireley. He is survived by his seven sisters: Elisa (Richard) Purnell, Teena (Michael) Staller, Donna Saenz, Jamie Jarrell, Jennifer Donnell, Michelle Howard, and Cheryl (Gardner) Hoover; grandmother Florence Chambers; aunt Georgiana (Richard) Furr; nieces & nephews Rachel (Ben) Merin, Matthew, Marie & Gary Purnell, Breanne & Eric Saenz, Alex & Randi Staller, Lacey, Mandy & Jackie Jarrell, Christine & Veronica Dodds, Gardner & Amanda Hoover; and cherished friends Lisa (Jeff) Crisalli.

Landon was born November 28, 1959, in Bristol, Virginia. He moved to California in 1968 and resided in San Francisco for the past 14 years. He worked for many years in the hotel industry in Sarasota and Key West, Florida and San Francisco. He had a great sense of humor and vivid imagination, an artistic nature, and a gentle, loving heart. He enjoyed cooking for his friends and family, and worked for a brief time as a chef. Landon loved sci-

ence fiction and delighted in his extensive collection of dragons.

The family is grateful for the loving care provided by the staff at San Francisco General Hospital and Laguna Honda Hospital. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Landon's name to Laguna Honda Hospice, attention: Paul Kelly, 375 Laguna Honda Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94116.

Bruce Werten

Bruce passed away peacefully on Tuesday morning, May 27 at Maitri Hospice in San Francisco. Bruce was 53 years old. The staff at Maitri provided him with superb and compassionate care. During his fight to live, friends from his flight attendant days from St. Francis Lutheran Church, co-workers, his support group and many other friends surrounded Bruce. His mother and sister were able to spend time with him before his passing. Special thanks to Pastor Phyllis Zellhart from St. Francis who provided spiritual support and love.

Bruce was born March 9, 1950 and was raised in Lincoln, Illinois. He graduated from Southern Illinois University. He left the cold weather and moved to Hawaii where he became a flight attendant for Hawaiian Airlines. He was able to travel the world. He later became a realtor in San Francisco and worked at

Keynote Properties. He found an exceptional place to worship in the mid 90's, called St. Francis Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

A memorial service will be held at Saint Francis Lutheran Church on Church St. this Sunday, June 1st at 1 p.m.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

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Project Inform to hold volunteer training

by Cynthia Laird

Project Inform needs you. If you have some free time and are interested in and knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS issues, Project Inform is looking for new volunteers for its national HIV/AIDS treatment hotline.

The next training session will take place this Saturday, May 31 and Sunday, June 1 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, June 7 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Hotline operators are asked to commit to one two-hour shift per week for a

minimum of six months. The shifts occur during business hours Monday-Friday and on Saturdays.

Currently, about 55 volunteers staff the hotline. They answer phone calls, provide HIV treatment information, and give callers support for developing effective treatment strategies. Hotline operators also provide information about how to access treatment, and provide referrals to other organizations who offer critical services to HIV-positive individuals.

Due to the increasing number of people seeking Spanish language services, the agency encour-

ages bilingual English/Spanish volunteers to apply.

The hotline receives more than 20,000 calls a year from women, men, youth, transgenders, and people of color who are HIV-positive; doctors, nurses, service providers, and social workers; and family and friends of people living with HIV.

People interested in attending the hotline training must pre-register by calling Mark Owens, volunteer and intern services manager, at (415) 558-8669, ext. 218 or e-mail volunteer@projectinform.org. ▼

Food For Thought auction this Sunday

by Cynthia Laird

Food For Thought, Sonoma County's AIDS food bank, will hold its fourth biennial "Antiques and Treasures Auction" this Sunday, June 1, in the North Bay.

Executive Director Ron Karp said that approximately 200 items will be auctioned off. The auction will feature fine quality antiques and art from around the world, rugs, wines from Sonoma and Napa counties, objets d'art, catered dinners, and other items.

Food For Thought's last auction raised more than \$170,000 and was

the most successful AIDS fundraising event ever in Sonoma County, according to Karp. Major sponsors this year are the Santa Rosa Press-Democrat, California Food Connections, the Portola Group, and the Sonoma West Times & News.

Founded in 1988, Food For Thought provides food and nutritional services to more than 400 men, women, and children in the county who live with disabling HIV and AIDS. From its food bank in downtown Forestville, the organization distributes groceries, fresh produce, household necessities, vitamins, and high calorie nutritional supplements. All ser-

vices, including countywide delivery for clients who are home bound or who lack transportation, are provided free of charge, Karp explained.

Sunday's auction starts at noon, with previews on Saturday, May 31 from 3-5 p.m. and from 10 a.m. to noon on Sunday. The fundraiser takes place at the Sebastopol Veterans Memorial Building, 282 South High Street, in Sebastopol. For more information, visit www.foodforthought-auction.org or call (707) 887-1647. There is no admission fee and lots can be viewed on the Web site. ▼

Litter in Castro

◀ previous page

openly gay man who lives in the neighborhood, wants to see public art installed, spruced up street tree beds and places at night geared toward younger members of the queer community.

"While the Castro is a mecca, most of us who live in the neighborhood agree it could be much better," said Duffy. "The first step is focusing on making it a cleaner neighborhood. The second step is a greater vision for the entire area."

That vision, Duffy said, incorporates such ideas as a redesigned Harvey Milk Plaza at the Muni station on Market Street, possibly adding senior housing to the Harvey Milk Library on 16th Street, a redesigned 17th Street pedestrian plaza or new use to the Chevron station, which is up for sale. As for new businesses, Duffy said many residents would like to see a bread bakery and upscale shoe store

open. He has also thrown out such ideas as a promotional guide of the area for visitors to discover stores and restaurants off the main streets, new signage for the area, and turning utility poles into community cork boards for groups and event promoters to post fliers.

"There are a lot of opportunities that exist," said Duffy, who likened his effort to what occurred during the Harlem Renaissance. "It was a time of incredible creativity. There was art, music, literature, political discourse and it was a very tough economic time."

Over the next eight months, DPW crews will be in the Castro to do more cleaning and beautification work. The department hopes that by the end of the program, merchants and business owners will help pay to continue the program. Depending on the amount of sidewalk in front of a merchant's store, the cost would be \$30 to \$50 per month.

While the program for the most part is welcomed by area merchants, there is some concern about what will happen when it ends.

"I do have concerns that after the DPW comes through and does this what are going to be the long term effects. I am hoping that people when they see this is a great thing, that it is great for business to have the neighborhood clean, the sidewalks sparkling, they will buy into," said Barry Hermanson, a board member of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro. "Ultimately, people feel safer in areas that look like they are well maintained."

In the meantime, merchants and residents are invited to a community meeting on the Castro Renaissance at 6 p.m. Monday, June 2 at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy on 19th Street. For more information or to make suggestions, contact Duffy at (415) 554-6968 or e-mail him at Bevan.Duffy@sfgov.org. ▼

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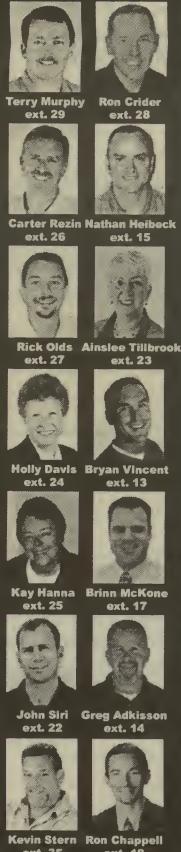
MAIL TO: Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth St., San Francisco, CA 94103

Un-fog-ettable

by Jim Provenzano

A poet said that the fog comes in on little cat feet, but Sunday's fog pushed in more like a sumo wrestler, clouding the planned semi-finals of the U.S. Gay Open Tennis Tournament, sponsored by the San Francisco

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After a three-hour delay to wipe the wet courts at Golden Gate Park, tennis competition got underway.

Several players were forced to migrate to South of Market's S.F. Tennis Club, causing some delays. That schedule was cut short due to the club's early closing.

Yet, Sunday night's banquet, and Monday's finals under the sun, proved victorious for climate and competition, proving that perseverance is required for organizers as well as



Sports Complex

GGWC tournament results

Listed first, second, and third by weight class:

135-145# Pool A:
Johnny Almony, Ed Lindsay, Matt Carrey

135-145# Pool B:
Antonio Quirante, David Dodson, Ron Ward

145-155# Paul Perkovic, Russ Connally, Francisco Rivera

170-190# Marty Dirks, Bob Eastey, Troy Smith

160-180# Sam Stewart, Ken Thomas, Rich Schimpf

190# Calvin Malone, Kurt Schauer, John Ascher

competitors.

George Torrelas and Kevin Ware (profiled two weeks ago) won their doubles quarterfinal, but lost their semifinal match late in the afternoon.

"It was kind of a bummer," said Ware. "But George ended up winning the B singles title Monday at Golden Gate Park."

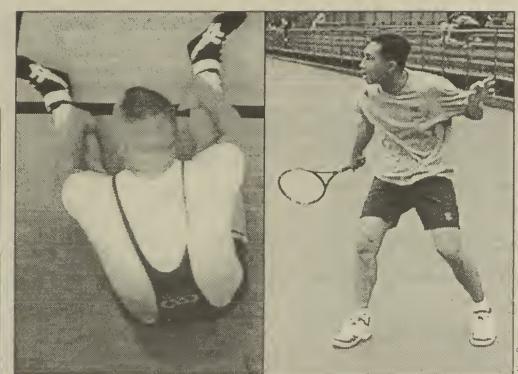
Ware mentioned that Mike Vuong, another GLTF member, won the men's A singles title. And yet another GLTFer, Kerry Mitchell, won the men's open singles title.

In doubles, Jason Goodrick and Loren Nordlund won the men's B doubles title.

Among the visiting tennis players was Australian Kevin James, who won the open men's doubles with Ted Reynoso of Fresno.

James had met Reynoso in Sydney, where they paired up and medaled in doubles there. Winning in doubles was hard-won, more for scheduling than for on-court effort. After they got bumped from the Golden Gate courts, they went to the tennis club, but that was cut short.

Having traveled from his current home in London, where the gay tennis scene is also active, proved worthwhile. James also traveled to Los Angeles on business for Hasbro, where he works for the company known for their



Jim Provenzano

Floor plan: A wrestler warms up, while a tennis player serves up.

hunky toys like G.I. Joe and Action Man.

The GLTF annually attracts almost 200 competitors of varying levels. Kudos to the club for working around the predictably unpredictable local weather.

Full info and scores, visit www.gltf.org.

Up & mat 'em

The weather didn't impede the indoor-housed Golden Gate Wrestling Club's annual tournament, the 18th edition, in fact.

Captain Johnny Almony noted that there were actually more competitors and participants from other cities and clubs than his own San Franciscan teammates, most of whom were taking a break post-Gay Games.

Almony sparred with David Dodson in a rare display of Greco-

Roman grappling. Bay Area Wrestling Association President Les Morgan provided tips and lessons. Also officiating was renowned local FILA referee and coach Alex Ostrovskiy, who officiated in Sydney at Gay Games VI, and at the 2000 Olympics.

Some of Gay Games VI's gold medalists competed, including former college champ Golden Gate's Calvin Malone, and Los Angeles resident Matt Carey.

Among the Los Angeles contingent, 24-year-old Antonio Quirante showed his articulate array of moves, defeating opponents in each of his matches.

Quirante regularly spars with the Southern California Wrestling Club, which has promoted the sport of wrestling since the early 1980s. The club will host its own tournament this Labor Day weekend as part of the Los Angeles Open Sports Festival, an annual sporting event hosted by the Los Angeles Sports Alliance and other local clubs.

A former champion of Montview (in the Los Angeles area) in the 119-pound weight class, Quirante now wrestles at a still-trim 135. He didn't think any less of his adult late-bloomer competitors at the Golden Gate event.

"I feel like they're my peers," said Quirante. "We always work out well together. We're all of the same mindset. We like to learn and enjoy wrestling together."

Of his swift victories, Quirante said, "At one point, I looked at the clock, and saw it was four minutes [into the six-minute bout]. I just wanted to get it done." So, he wove a series of multiple-point moves against his opponents.

Visiting New Yorkers included Ed Lindsay, whose Twin Towers Wrestling Club now boasts over 100 members.

Several members of the Seattle Kings visited as well, and brought

next page ▶

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Massage workers

◀ page 1

a permit.

The citation, which references Municipal Penal Code 2701, was issued through the SFPD vice squad at 2:20 p.m. and orders the masseur to appear in court at the end of June. He is charged with a misdemeanor. Information on the monetary fines he faces was not available. An officer at the SFPD permit department said that fines can vary based on whether "other things are being looked at by the citing officer."

Although the cited masseur told the B.A.R. that he performs non-sexual massage, there is little doubt that such a set up is motivated by intentions to curb prostitution.

"In cases of visits to a person's home, the police are usually going after somebody who has been reported by a client or by neighbors," said Dillon, a sex worker organizer who declined to give his last name. "I have heard that once in a while the police will do sweeps through gay papers like the B.A.R., but I haven't heard that massage workers have been experiencing a lot of trouble recently."

Usually, said Dillon, police are more apt to target those advertising under the "Escorts" section, although he hasn't heard of increased problems in that venue either.

Inspector DelCarlo confirmed that most complaints are motivated by fears of prostitution in the neighborhood. Most complaints—up to 95 percent of them—are also anonymous, all-

though "they are always valid," he said. "We never get a complaint about a legitimate place."

Hands-on government

If San Francisco neighbors and police are losing their tolerance for the creatively self-employed, they aren't the only ones.

Flash forward to next year, when openly lesbian Assemblywoman Christine Kehoe plans to re-introduce an amended version of AB1388, the "Massage therapy and bodywork licensure" bill.

Kehoe's bill has been held over from this session in order to consider changes and additions recommended by industry professionals. But the bill currently contains provisions for people advertising under massage to be licensed through the state, and mandates fingerprinting to determine whether any criminal background could affect their license eligibility.

According to Michael Miller, Kehoe's chief of staff, much of the bill simply pulls California's separate local policies under one umbrella, to allow out-call body workers to travel to clients across city lines without having to secure permits in each municipality.

The bill would make it illegal, at the state level, to use the word, "Massage" if that person is not licensed, but Miller said that people advertising under the category without being licensed "are probably already violating some local ordinance anyway."

This is true, according to SFPD permit division spokesman Officer Mario Ceballos, who stated that in San Francisco, people "can't advertise for massage unless

they're licensed and accredited," a process which requires training, certification, and the filing of paperwork through the city.

But beneath the rhetoric of statewide uniformity is a collective effort to make it more difficult for sexually-focused and other unlicensed massage practices to stay in business.

Miller, who emphasized that the bill would address those who "use massage as a front for prostitution," also noted that Kehoe worked on similar legislation at the local level as a city councilwoman in San Diego. And a web site run by a coalition of licensed body workers, www.handsontca.com, advocates for mandatory state licensing in order to avoid the stigma of being lumped into "adult entertainment" business categories.

Regardless of the intentions of massage-wary law enforcers and makers, most massage advertisers in the B.A.R. and other news outlets would not have to worry, as the majority of those listed in the massage section also advertise their qualifications and licenses.

But for escorts and unlicensed masseurs, there are some simple safety tips to avoid entrapment, including the number one rule, according to Dillon, to never explicitly discuss sexual acts in exchange for money. Other safety measures sometimes include asking clients for identification, and having a series of conversations with prospective clients before agreeing to meet them. Extensive information is also available through the Bay Area Sex Worker Advocacy Network at www.bayswan.org. ▼

Santa Cruz

◀ page 5

Santa Cruz), one of two openly gay men elected to that body; and Cece Pinheiro, the first out lesbian elected to the Santa Cruz City School District Board of Trustees.

The Pride Rally in San Lorenzo Park follows, beginning at noon. This year's stage includes music, dance, and speeches from noted lesbian author, Patricia Nell Warren; University of California, Santa Cruz professor and author, Bettina Aptheker; Richard Baldwin, Tim Fitzmaurice, Margaret Leonard

Musical headliners are Nedra Johnson, Leesa Gomez, Heavy Hips Tribal Belly Dance Troupe, Diane Patterson, Kim Lembo, Frootie Flavors, Linda Arceo and Lucy Long, Anna Mosby and her drag troop, Michael's Nervous, Horizontes, and San Francisco's own homo-hop group Deep-Dickollective.

The rally will also honor several local residents for their past and continuing contributions to the local queer community. This year's awardees include Bettina Aptheker, Richard Baldwin, Tim Fitzmaurice, Margaret Leonard

and Clare Sheils, Stuart Rosenstein, and Peter Weyzen.

Merchandise vendors and information booths will adorn the grounds, and workshops on the pros and cons of domestic partnerships, as well as a 3 p.m. domestic partnership ceremony, will be held.

The rally winds down at 5 p.m., wrapping up what organizers are calling "a weekend of statement, celebration, and outreach to all of Santa Cruz County." For more information on specific events, visit www.santacruzpride.org. ▼

Maryland pot

◀ page 14

under the provisions of Proposition 215.

Currently some 40 medical marijuana patients and providers are facing federal charges in California. In May 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal Controlled Substances Act su-

persedes local and state laws. To address this discrepancy, on May 22 a bipartisan group of congressmembers reintroduced the States' Rights To Medical Marijuana Act. Introduced by Representatives Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts), Dana Rohrabacher (R-California), Janice Schakowsky (D-Illinois), and Ron Paul (R-Texas), the bill would reschedule cannabis from Schedule I (no rec-

ognized medicinal use) to Schedule II, which would allow physicians to legally prescribe the drug if permitted under state law. The proposed law would also enable state legislatures to set up cannabis distribution systems. The bill—which has previously been introduced five times but has yet to receive a committee hearing—now has some 25 co-sponsors. ▼

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

some of their stylish new T-shirts and calendars.

Following the tournament, at a festive house party at coach and Federation of Gay Games President Gene Dermody's, amusing awards were given to all wrestlers, a few of whom were recovering from minor injuries.

Check info and results of the tournament at www.ggcw.org.

For additional information about the SoCal club, e-mail scwc2002@yahoo.com or go to www.geocities.com/scwc2002.

Get info on the Seattle Kings at www.kingswrestling.org.

If you'd like a beer with your wrestling, stop by the cruise-

friendly Powerhouse, 1347 Folson, tonight (Thursday, May 29), at 10 p.m. for some in-house wrestling.

Diamonds in the rough

The fog bank fortunately didn't reach as far as the Twin Creeks Sports Complex in Sunnyvale, although a few of those earthquake rumbles may have been noticed between all the home runs scored at the Golden Bear Classic.

The annual softball tournament saw 60 local and visiting teams compete in open, B, C, and D, women's competitive, alternative, and recreational divisions, with one team from Honolulu, Hawaii.

"The women's alternative division was a qualifier for the NAGAAA World Series to be held in

Washington, D.C. this August," said Matt Florio, one of the tournament directors. "The World Series bid is awarded to the first place team of that division."

For upcoming softball events, visit www.sfgsl.org or call (415) 436-0707 for the latest information.

Cheer on Giants

Cheer SF will be on-field for Until There's A Cure Day, this Sunday, June 1 at Pac Bell Park at the SF Giants baseball game and fundraiser for local AIDS charities.

Visit www.cheersf.org and www.teamsf.org for more info. ▼

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LEGAL NOTICES

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (DPW) GRAFFITI PROGRAM

The (DPW) Graffiti Abatement Program works daily to eradicate graffiti citywide. The fifteen (15) member graffiti crew is equipped with four (4) vans with the latest in computer aided color matching systems, two (2) pick-up trucks, paint, brushes and other graffiti removal supplies. For graffiti that appears on stone or marble, the crew also has a soda-blasting machine that sprays high pressure steam and baking soda to remove graffiti from these difficult surfaces.

Last year, the DPW crew wiped out about 1,750,000 square feet of graffiti and used over 4,375 gallons of paint!

As a citizen you can help! Please report graffiti by calling 241-WASH. If you are reporting graffiti on your private property, a Release Form is needed. To obtain one, please leave your name, and address or fax number and a form will be sent to you. As a Department policy, we will remove the graffiti from a private building once as a way of training and educating you on graffiti abatement. Thereafter, we will leave the paint with you for you to use in the future should the graffiti happen to return. Thank you for your assistance!

WHAT IS SAN FRANCISCO CITY GOVERNMENT BUYING?

Check the City's bid database on the Internet: <http://sunset.ci.sf.ca.us/pbids.nsf> (no "www"). For more information about the database, call (415) 554-6248. For general information about selling your product or service to the City, go to the Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Division's website at <http://www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing>. Click on "General Business Information," under Introduction to the Division. For more information, call (415) 554-6743.

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STATEMENT FILE #0266498-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Caylen's Catering, 2646 45th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Caylen Boyd. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Minh Tang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on February 27, 2001.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266589-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Henare Systems, 479 Silver Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Caylen Boyd. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 20, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/02/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: JJ Tour, 296 Flood Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Fung, Chun Kui. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or name on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Minh Tang. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on February 27, 2001.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266562-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: JJ & K Transportation Trucking, 2682 San Jose Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Charlie Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Henry Charlie Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266461-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J & K Transportation Trucking, 2682 San Jose Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Henry Charlie Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Henry Charlie Mensch. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 01, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/01/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266461-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Luna Lounge And Nightclub, 1192 Folsom Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Ignacio Luna Jr. president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 08, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Ignacio Luna Jr. president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 08, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/08/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266577-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Market Street Mallhouse, 2215 Market Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Christopher M. Diem. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 09, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Christopher M. Diem. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 09, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/09/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266577-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Paradise Landscape, 54 Middlepoint Road San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paradise Vaivasa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Paradise Vaivasa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE #0266511-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Green Street Communications, 2014 Green Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by an individual signed Phuoc Lam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003.

Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business was conducted by an individual signed Phuoc Lam. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/07/2003.

MAY 8, 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

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LEGAL NOTICES

Above listed fictitious business name or names on April 29, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/29/2003.

MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266980-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Rendezvous Cafe, 1760 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Antonio Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 14, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/14/2003.

MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266681-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Pot Drain Company, 231 Waller Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed John C. Boling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 06, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/06/2003.

MAY 15, 22, 29, JUNE 5, 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is Cardona Maria, Segura Gonzalo. The applicant listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 474 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for:

41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE

MAY 15, 22, 29, 2003

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 03540740

In the Matter of the Application of Sean Adrien "Lew". For change of Name. The application of Sean Adrien "Lew" for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sean Adrien "Lew" has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sean Adrien "Penit". Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 17th day of July at 9:00am, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 21, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266926-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Boboquivari's The Steak, 1450 Lombard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94123. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Jerry Dal Bozzo, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266196-00

The following person(s) are doing business as East-West Integrative Medicine Clinic, 605 Chenery Street, Suite C, San Francisco, Ca. 94131. This business is conducted by an individual signed Marnie Rachelle McCurdy. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on April 18, 2003. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/18/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266993-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Tower Electric Company, 3467 17th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94141. This business is conducted by an individual signed Mark Musumeci. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on March 17, 1994. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0266943-00

The following person(s) are doing business as Blue Corner, Inc. 175 Bluxome Street #129, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kelly McLean Schreitmuller, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/15/2003.

MAY 22, 29, JUNE 5, 12, 2003

STATEMENT FILE 0267020-00

The following person(s) are doing business as New Cheung Hing Restaurant. 1936

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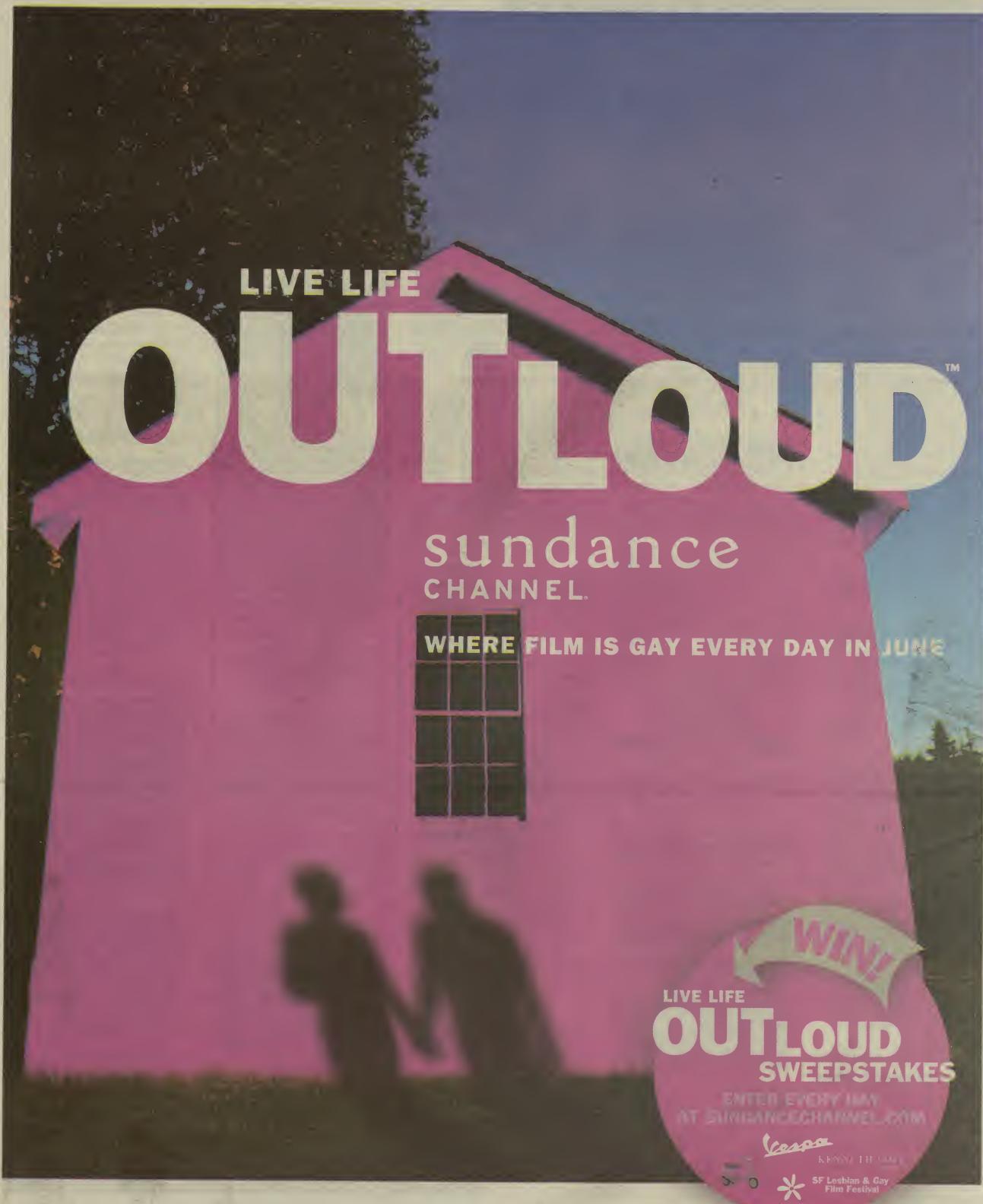
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Finding drama in 'The Human Voice'
Gay French novelist, playwright, poet,
filmmaker Jean Cocteau's one-act on DVD.
page 34

Gay rehab, anyone?
Augusten Burroughs
seeks sobriety in 'Dry.'
page 33



Working up 'Wicked'
Another take on Oz in
Broadway-bound musical.
page 29



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAYA READER REPORTER

Vol. 33 • No. 22 • 29 May 2003

**Gay features and documentaries
in the Sundance Channel's
'OUTLoud' series**

**We're here,
we're queer,
we're on cable!**

by David Lamble

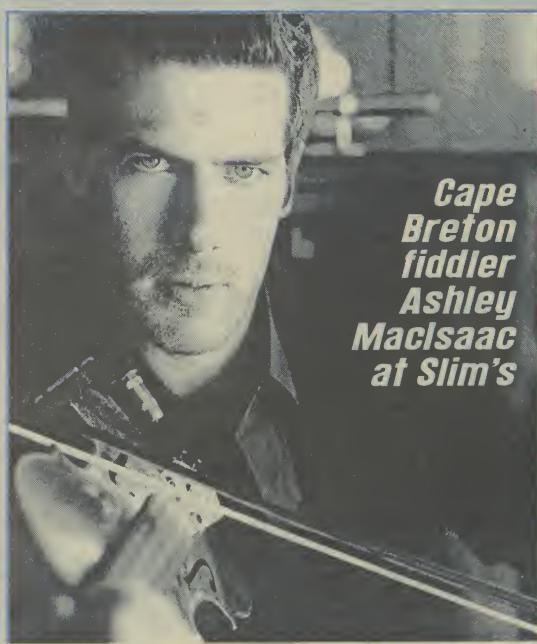
Hard-working transvestite
works her way through Italy in
Henrique Goldman's Princesa.

Perhaps the queerest spot in the digital cable universe, the Sundance Channel marks Pride Month with *OUTLoud*, a month-long festival of feature films and documentaries. If you're subscribing to the digital package and not getting Sundance, bug the folks at COMCAST, it often does the trick. Our 10 highlights can be supplemented at the website address: www.sundancechannel.com.

Lan Yu Once a popular Web novel, *Lan Yu* was filmed under the radar screen of Chinese censors. Stanley Kwan tells the story of Chen Handong (veteran stage actor Hu Jun, by turns ruthless and tender), one of a class of Chinese robber-barons, men who are none too scrupulous about getting what they want. Handong is surprised by what he wants: a country bumpkin named Lan Yu (the boyish Liu Ye, morphing from sexual naïf to modern saint).

On the eve of the Tiananmen Square massacre, Handong wins Lan Yu at a pool game. Paying for sex and showering the boy with gifts (blue jeans for sexier undressing) inoculate Handong from the virus of love. One night, Lan Yu surprises Handong, who's playing with a hunkier lad. They fight and part, only to meet again on the night of Tiananmen. As Lan Yu lies sobbing in Han-

page 34 ►



**Cape
Breton
fiddler
Ashley
MacIsaac
at Slim's**

Fiddler with an edge

by Mark Mardon

I have seen the devil play the fiddle, and his name is Ashley MacIsaac.

Maybe he's not exactly the Great Satan, but damned if this hot-shot young Nova Scotian of Scottish descent isn't tormented by demons, and they all came out through his playing last Thursday night, May 22, at Slim's, the last stop on his 20-gig American tour.

The sound was as 28-year-old fiddle master produced was as demented and brilliant as anything I've heard live or recorded, and I'm a fan of fiddle music from way back. As one Canadian critic aptly said of MacIsaac, he's like a Paganini of the Celtic fiddle. I would add he's like a Kurt Cobain in his intensity on stage — one who's out and unapologetic about being queer, and who doesn't mind shaking up audiences with sexual references and black-humored pronouncements.

"I don't always sound like Tom Waits," a hoarse MacIsaac told the Slim's audience, as straight as they come in this town, "but you know what the first thing is a gay man does when he comes to San Francisco." He stretched out his throat and gulped deeply to emphasize the point.

MacIsaac played up a storm on his fiddle as he ran through many of the songs from his latest album, *Ashley MacIsaac*, on the Decca Records

(Universal Music) label, along with some traditional reels and jigs by request from a young woman in the audience. Clearly, he carries that storm around with him wherever he goes. The gravel tones of his voice only added to the feeling of being caught up in his personal tempest.

Child prodigy

Growing up in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, where Arcadian, Celtic, Scottish Highland and MicMac music is the region's lifeblood, young MacIsaac didn't take up the fiddle merely as a hobby, but as an expression of his culture: "I was born into it and lived in it and treasured it and was it. I played for an awful lot of barn dances, weddings, funerals, things like that." He started step-dancing at concerts 22 years ago, at age six, took up the fiddle when he was eight-and-a-half, and played his first concert a year later. It led to extraordinary success.

"When I was 16," said MacIsaac, "I used to walk around with five or 10 grand in my pocket from playing fiddle at square dances. I kept all the money I made in my pockets. Never put it in the bank. I had a lot more money then. Always had a lot of cash, a nice car."

Getting into the big leagues of recording and **page 30 ►**

Super homos and testy Brits

Gay superheroes in the comics and the home-decor pages

by Roberto Friedman

Well, you could have tipped us over with a fairy feather when we opened the premiere issue of DC Comics' superhero series *The Authority*. In practically the very first frame, the bad guy has his hands ready to unzip his fly, while he taunts his captives, "You want something to drink? No problem. Open wide!"

thirsty'll have to wait 'til I have a few more beers."

A few pages later, one of the superhero team is waking up his beefy boyfriend in bed with a full-on good-morning kiss. When a child barges in on the daring duo, our superhero sends her packing. Beefy bf complains, "You're too hard on her!"

"Not any more I'm not," laments our homo hero.

Things sure have changed in the comic world since our boyhood days when we followed every move of **The Flash**. The Speedy One did go around in red spandex, but at least he was discreet enough to keep his bedmates under wraps.

Inch by inch

We love reading the "At Home with" series in the New York Times' "House & Home" section; previous profiles have included John Waters and other worthies. Recently the series chose to explore the nearly empty Bedford-Stuyvesant home of gay art photographer David Armstrong, a moody, spectral house which he admits is "very Miss Havisham's attic."

"The idea was to keep a lot of the rooms empty for pictures," Armstrong tells the Times, meaning his classically-posed portraits



Time for a kiss in *The Authority*

After a frame in which a stream of golden showers descends upon the subjected, the villain concludes, "Anyone still



Photographer Armstrong in 1976.

of young men. Armstrong photographed NY's Mudd Club years in the late '70s, along with his friend and fellow art-photog **Nan Goldin**. Her 1976 portrait of him looking bored and bratty is a highlight of the illustrating spread.

The profile claims DA spends his time "poring over the monographs of John Singer Sargent, John Everett Millais and Anthony Van Dyck, among others, piled up in the upstairs bedroom." But among the "other" reading material in Armstrong's pile, as photographed by the Times, Out

There made out very clearly the cover of *Inches* magazine. Beats Van Dyck every time.



Colin is ready to kiss guys.

Stud choice

From a piece entitled, "Colin Farrell's all-male sex scene" in the National Enquirer last week: "Irish stud Colin Farrell's all puckered for his next big-screen shocker — he'll be kissing nude men! Colin plays the title role in Oliver Stone's Alexander the Great biopic, candidly portraying the conqueror's many male conquests in sex scenes so hot he's demanded the right to handpick the hunky lover-boys he'll be seducing." We, in turn, demand the right to handpick Colin.

We doubt Stone's take on gay superhero Alex the Great could possibly match Out There's erotic imagination. Nevertheless, a kiss is a kiss. We'll be queuing up at the screening.

Now here's something else that's giving us fever. Direct from Tom Cunneff's "Insider" column in People magazine: "When actors reunite to make a movie sequel, they can let their hair down with one another — and occasionally their pants, too. Last summer, when Hugh Jackman arrived late to the Vancouver set of X2, the X-Men sequel, he asked costars Ian McKellen and newcomer Alan Cumming how they spent their weekends. Cumming told him they'd been going to the beach. He neglected to mention, however, that it was a nude beach. So when Jackman met them there, he was a bit taken aback: 'Ian had on his English sunhat,'

walking along the beach butt-naked,' he says with a laugh. Cumming adds, 'A few people recognized us, but they respected the fact that we weren't there to sign autographs. Honestly, where would we keep the pen?'

Who would imagine, at a moment like this, a pen being of more interest than a penis? We're not sure we need to see Sir Ian (happy 64th!) in the nude, and Cumming is definitely sexier dressed. But Jackman? Oh, help. Cunneff's column did not have a picture.

How to work British nerves

Item: those wacky stuffy Brits. Example: here's shirty columnist William Rees-Mogg bellowing on gay poet Walt Whitman in last week's London Times: "Walt Whitman is a notorious difficulty for the English. He's obviously a great poet, in the same way that Tennyson is obviously a great poet. But he is a great poet who has a hyper-American quality which jars on the English."

"With Whitman, even in his secret gay poetry, and this quotation comes from a poem never published in his lifetime, one finds the same irritating, over-the-top quality. I am that rough and simple person. I am he who kisses his comrade lightly on the lips at parting, and I am one who is kissed in return. I introduce that new American salute. One has to be unusually free of homophobia and Americanophobia to be able to read these lines without wincing."

Not only great gay bards get on Brits' nerves. Try sending American sitcom stars to the West End. Consider Nicholas de Jongh of the London Evening Standard writing about Friends star Matthew Perry's appearance on the London stage in David Mamet's *Sexual Perversity in Chicago*: Perry "not only acts with a self-conscious touch that is as heavy as a grasp, but looks almost old enough to play his character's Daddy." Stuart Jeffries of the UK Guardian wonders, "How much lower can we go? J-Lo as Medea? Brad and Jen in *Hedda Gabler*, the musical?"

Isn't American popular culture tortuous enough? The British press noted last week that "US military interrogators are using unorthodox musical techniques to extract information about weapons of mass destruction or fugitive Ba'athist leaders from their detainees — a fearsome mix of Metallica and Barney the Dinosaur." The Guardian asked its readers to weigh in with what music they would use to torture someone.

Perfect Pitch declared himself sure that "a continuous loop of 'The Wind Beneath My Wings' by Bette Midler should do it — or just sample the ending, where she sings flat at the top of her lungs."

Jokes wrote in, "A loop of those insufferable Yank oiks Daphne & Celeste (you know, 'Ooh stick you, you momma too...,' the horror!) would have anyone singing like a canary in no time. If only so they drown out the record." ▼

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THEATRE

Half-baked comedy

'Cooking with Elvis' at the Phoenix

by Richard Dodds

Cooking with Elvis, an Edinburgh Fringe hit that didn't do so well in London's West End, is a second-tier absurd-launch comedy with existential pretensions. It also has a lot of laughs in its Bay Area debut at the Phoenix Theatre. But there are laughs lost, along with an overall effectiveness, because of half-measures too often employed in director Robert Hamm's production.

The play is populated by an anorexic, alcoholic, libidinous schoolteacher; her Elvis-impersonator-turned-vegetable-in-a-wheelchair husband; their obese, food-obsessed teenage daughter; and the hapless bakery manager who inadvertently has sex with each member of the family.

Stylistically, *Cooking with Elvis* seems nothing like *Billy Elliot*, which playwright Lee Hall also wrote. The play is made up of pieces that don't hang particularly well together, including full-blown Elvis impersonations, self-referential devices, calculatedly outrageous situations, and occasional statements along the lines of, "Life is about the tiny things that get us through the suffering."

Still, individual scenes can be amusing, especially as the baker, played with endearing cluelessness by David Austin-Groen, finds himself in over his head with this strange family. Not that Stewart is without his quirks. Feeling sorry

Lauren Grace, David Austin-Groen, Linda Ayres-Frederick in *Cooking...*.

for the paralyzed dad in his Elvis drag, he masturbates the older man to climax, and then kisses him on his lips, more to be polite than out of any homoerotic desire.

Linda Ayres-Frederick and Lauren Grace, as mother and daughter, play their roles effectively, but the zaftig Ayres-Frederick hardly suggests the anorexic thinness described in the script, while the rail-thin Grace bears little relationship to the chubby kid who finds solace in cooking. When it comes to matching up physical attributes between characters and actors, you want to give smaller theaters a break, but here the incongruity is pronounced. However, Lol Levy looks very much like

an Elvis impersonator, and sounds like one as well in the recurring musical fantasy interludes.

In a play in which cooking and food are such important elements, it's a bit curious that Hamm, the director, has the actors mime the substances that they are cooking, serving, drinking, and eating. But then a non-visible birthday cake arrives, inconsistently, on stage. And how much funnier and more effective it would have been had some real product been used when the daughter insists the baker rub pre-coitus marinade over his body. Heck, you could use KY and food coloring. This is not the kind of play where timidity has any role. ▼

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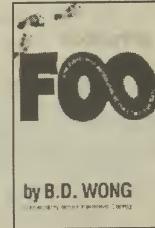
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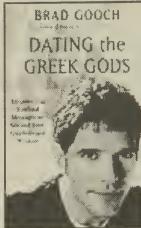
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THEATRE

Handel with care

René Jacobs conducts a relevant 'Rinaldo'

by Tim Pfaff

It may be the worst of times for anyone not on a first-name basis with Undersecretary of Defense Douglas Feith, but it's the best of times for Handel lovers. Against all odds, during the composer's 1985 tercentenary, all of his 40-plus operas were performed somewhere in the world. The modern revival has only gathered steam since. Even the "lesser" operas (Handel aficionados acknowledge no such category) are produced by major opera companies, and all are now well-represented on disc, some several times over.

Decca released *Rinaldo*, Handel's first opera composed for London (in 1711), in 2000, with David Daniels (as the "Christian hero" Rinaldo) and Cecilia Bartoli, no less, but it was compromised by the lackluster conducting of Christopher Hogwood. With his new *Rinaldo* for Harmonia Mundi, René Jacobs sets the record, as it were, straight. His spitfire *Rinaldo*, recorded in conjunction with a series of live performances at the Innsbruck Festival last August, features singers every bit as good as Hogwood's, if less well known; superb playing by the Freiburger Barockorchester; and a buoyant, vivid interpretation that leaves no doubt why Handel conquered London with this piece as soundly as its title character did the Jerusalem of the first Crusade.



Jacobs' choice of a mezzo-soprano, the superb Vivica Genaux, instead of a countertenor for the "pants" title-role settles the long-running debate about which voice type is more appropriate for these roles (composed for castrati) with unassailable evidence that the right singer, not the right gender, is what matters. The superb countertenors who figure in the cast — Lawrence Zazzo (Goffredo), Christophe Dumaix (a liquid-voiced Eustazio), and Dominique Vissé (the Christian sorcerer) — show that Jacobs himself once a countertenor, could easily have made that casting choice.

The wisdom of his choice of Genaux becomes evident in the early, first-act duet between Rinaldo and his beloved Almirena (the exquisitely supple-voiced Miah Persson), in which the voices intertwine in one of those personifications in sound Handel at which excelled.

While Genaux deploys a notably more complex, woodwind-like sound elsewhere (as in her exemplary "Caro sposa" that follows,



Jacobs' mastery of the idiom still has its penchant for going over the top.

minutes later), the two singers' sonorities become almost indistinguishable just when doing that makes perfect dramatic sense.

Throughout, Genaux, who is rapidly becoming one of the hottest properties on the early-

music scene, is no less heroic in sound than Daniels and, with better support in the pit, marginally more expressive. It's a voice that, to its credit, takes some getting used to, both for its singular (and highly memorable) timbre and for its chameleon ability to adapt. She's at her most thrilling firing off the fusillades of runs in "Abruccio, avvampa a freno," which Handel stole from his own first Italian opera, *Rodrigo*. Yet, it's the astounding range of expression she exhibits in this long, demanding, endlessly varied role that lingers in memory.

One of the arguments for Handel's having been gay (which I find completely convincing) is his uncanny understanding not only of a wide range of female sentiments, but also for the ambisexuality of the deepest human emotions. It's evident in weaker realizations of his music than this, but seldom as fully realized as it is here.

Jacobs' now-complete mastery of the idiom still has its penchant for going over the top, but nothing in this gripping, unabashedly virtuoso account (of a score Handel clearly composed to impress) seems unjustified. His amplified continuo section — which includes small organ and, even more eccentrically, harp — provides a sturdy cushion for the orchestral sound as a whole and infinitely flexible support to the cast in the critical recitations. His band is exemplary throughout, but it would be callous not to acknowledge the power of the pungent wind-playing.

If you're not susceptible to Jacobs' magical second act, Handel may not be your cup of tea. From the castanets-accompanied appearance of the Siren (Person again) who lures Rinaldo off course, to the potent scene between the villainous Argante, King of Jerusalem (James Rutherford), and Armida, the sorceress Queen of Damascus (another astounding coloratura mezzo, Inga Kalna), it's alternately nail-biting and heart-rending.

This *Rinaldo* comes in on a different wave-length than it would or could have in 1999. This story now feels like an eerie precursor of the nightly news. The bad guys are Muslims (and the bad gal a wicked sorceress at that), and the story, which goes back more than a millennium, comes as a sobering reminder of how old and deep the attitudes that still drive world events are. The composer of *Messiah* was working with the same stuff today's diplomats struggle with.

For Handel, a happy ending was *de rigueur*. We should be so lucky. ▼

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THEATRE

Are you a good witch or a bad witch?

Broadway-bound 'Wicked' at the Curran visits a revisionist Oz

by Richard Dodds

Gregory Maguire isn't much worried about what the makers of the musical *Wicked* are doing to his book. "I figure if the musical is warmly received, it will be because, of course, it's based on my book," said the novelist. "But if for some reason people don't like it, well, I'm not actually implicated."



Maguire: keeping his distance.

Maguire has been pretty much content to keep his distance. He'll get his first real look at what has been wrought from *Wicked*, along with everyone else, when the Broadway-bound musical begins performances this weekend at the Curran Theatre.

"My boyfriend and I have three small adopted kids, none of them yet in kindergarten, and I have a big book coming out in the fall, house renovation projects, and lots of other stuff going on," Maguire said from his home in Concord, Mass. "So it's perfectly fine for me for it to ferment in its own yeast."

Wicked, published in 1995, uses L. Frank Baum's Oz stories as the background for a new fantasy that investigates how the witches of Oz came to be labeled either "good" or "wicked"—and to subvert the way we do this labeling in our contemporary lives.

"I got the idea for the book on the eve of the first Gulf War," Maguire said. "I remember being persuaded for 60 or 90 seconds when I saw the press calling Saddam Hussein the new Hitler, but then I caught myself and thought, 'You're changing your entire moral and political outlook on the basis of the application of a single word: Hitler?' That's why the book is called *Wicked* and not *The Wicked Witch of the West*. It's the smallest way I could indicate what people were saying about her, or about anybody, in order to say it's worth killing them."

All this makes the novel sound more serious than it is, and the musical by necessity has simplified the complexities of both the story and its allegorical underpinnings. Maguire decided it was worth the risk when songwriter Stephen Schwartz (*Godspell*, *Pippin*) convinced him that a musical "could sing its strong dark heart right into the face of the audience. And that's what I would like to see happen."

Schwartz and librettist Winnie Holzman have been working on



Schwartz: songs from a dark heart.

the musical for three years, and director Joe Mantello joined the team about 18 months ago. "Our goal is to hold true to the spirit of the book," Holzman said, "but it's a musical, and that's a different animal."

Most of Holzman's writing credits are in television, including *thirtysomething*, *My So-Called Life*, and *Once Again*. A common element of her TV work was "a willingness to let people be complicated," she said. "*Wicked* has complicated characters, too. That's been part of our challenge, to keep that complexity."

While Maguire's book starts its story before the birth of Elphaba, who grows up to be the allegedly "wicked" witch, the musical picks up the tale as the cantankerous green-skinned Elphaba (played by Idina Menzel of *Rent*) arrives at college, where she is forced to room with the primping, self-involved Glinda (Tony-winner Kristin Chenoweth), the bubble-traveler whom we've always considered the good witch of the fable.

"We have our own version of the way in which Elphaba's eyes become open to what is really going on in Oz, and how she cannot turn her back on that," Holzman said. "The whole idea of taking one of the most famous villainesses of all time and turning her into a heroine is very exciting, but a bit intimidating. It's one of those things for which there is no map."

Another of Maguire's revisionist fairytales for grownups, *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister*, became a somewhat sanitized TV-movie for *Wonderful World of Disney*. "I don't think this is Wonder-



Holzman: true to the novel's spirit.

ful World of Disney," Holzman said of *Wicked*. "It has some darkness, not as much as the book, but it's not all smiley."

Most of Maguire's writings have been for children, and *Wicked* and *Ugly Stepsister* have been exceptions. His interest in writing about fantasy worlds goes back to childhood, part of his escape from a family life he jokingly says "was a little bit like the Brontes." But it was a serious business to the young Maguire, whose mother died from complications of his birth, and who was then placed in an orphanage by a father who couldn't cope.

When he re-married, the elder Maguire gathered his four children back together, had three more children, and became obsessively protective. "My siblings and I spent a lot of time inside, and we didn't have much to play with, but we did have paper and pencils. We put on plays and wrote stories together, but I was the prime moving force."

One of his more elaborate literary/theatrical endeavors foreshadowed the fantasy world he created in *Wicked*. It was the tale of a magic land he called Flann.

"There were maps, and there were histories of the characters going back five generations," Maguire said. "Flann was ruled

by, and here's where gayness was starting to rear its head, a really loud-mouthed queen named Ethel Berman, who used to strut around the palace singing at the top of her lungs.

"And then at various moments in the story, having nothing to do with the plot, a mysterious lady in blue would come down from the heavens and exhort everyone to pray the rosary daily. The characters would blink their eyes a few times, and then get back to the business of battling dragons."

Wicked is set to run through June 29. Call 512-7770 for tickets.

Short scenes

• *The Daddy, the Diva, and the Detective* is a murder-mystery dinner with a gay twist, Eternal Empress Donna Sachet and former International Mr. Leather Lenny Broberg star as the hosts of an evening during which guests compete to solve a murder. Performances are on Sundays in June at the Archbishop's Mansion on Alamo Square. Costuming, as a daddy, a diva, or a detective, is encouraged, and the best will be rewarded. Call 626-2950.

• Following a lengthy preview period, *Cocksucker - A Love Story* is ready to open at Theatre Rhino. The latest play from writer-director

Richard Larsen was inspired by a scandal involving Marines who made videos for the jack-off market. Tickets at 861-5079.

• With two of its four cast members out sick, the New Conservatory Theatre Center has postponed the run of *Taking a Chance on Love* until next season. Its replacement in the theater's *In Concert* series is *Married to Music*, starring local cabaret favorites Meg Mackay and Billy Philadelphia. Call 861-8972.

• Fasten your seat belts. Elaine Stritch is coming to town. The salty stage veteran is reprising *Elaine Stritch at Liberty*, her irreverent one-woman career retrospective, July 15-27 at the Curran Theatre. Call 512-7770. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage.



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Ashley MacIsaac

◀ Arts cover

touring cost him dearly, including a bankruptcy that still haunts him: "I sell half-a-million records, I tour here, I make \$4 or 5,000 a night, but it might cost me \$6,000 a night."

While most of the songs on his latest album were written by others — notably producer/collaborator Roger Greenawalt (No Doubt, Nils Lofgren) — and co-produced and mixed by Kevin Killen (U2, Peter Gabriel, Elvis Costello), clearly the package is MacIsaac's baby, a beautiful, mysterious piece of work. It takes traditional reels and jigs as a jumping-off place for showcasing his fierce musicianship, and its energy is infectious.

Before MacIsaac and his band went on stage to launch into the Slim's show, I got to hang out with him a bit in the chill lounge downstairs, where he and his comely young sweetheart Jason passed a joint back and forth as MacIsaac talked about his life. It was just as if he was the "Captain America" from the song he wrote by that name: "He's always wearing sunglasses; He's always right." MacIsaac wore shades throughout the interview and the concert, never once revealing the gorgeous blue eyes of his photographs. In his gravelly voice with its distinctive Nova Scotian accent, he made provocative pronouncements, revealing no traces of self-doubt.

When I asked him what keeps him grounded, he replied: "I try to stay as far fucking away from the ground as possible. When it comes to performing, that is. When it comes to being off-stage, that's what keeps me grounded, right there," at which he leaned forward and put his hand tenderly on Jason's knee.

Moments earlier, before he'd formally introduced Jason, I had asked MacIsaac if he had any romances going on, to which he answered: "The romance in my life is sort of like the stone. I'm always romancing the stone. If I find pot that's good, I'm romantic. I'm romantic about the pot, I'm romantic about everything around me. I get romantic about rosin, I get romantic about fiddles. More than anything, I get romantic about my beau."

He was holding his badly frayed fiddle-bow in his hand, and I asked if that was the bow he was referring to.

"No, that's the beau I play!" He indicated Jason in the chair opposite us. "I would never play anybody like I play an instrument.

How coolly gay, his audience must have wondered, for on stage, he was the model of a bad boy, shoving his gayness down people's straight throats. Noting that one of his band members is from

Toronto, MacIsaac certified the musician to be "SARS-free," but then quipped darkly: "Thank god for SARS; now finally those straight fuckers will get something." I could see the audience struggling to find the humor, but in no time at all they were swept up in the dizzying music, the genius of which allayed their concerns about MacIsaac's sanity.

At one time, they might have had more reason to worry. MacIsaac's bouts with hard drugs are notorious. He says he now does nothing harder than pot, but admits to "two-and-a-half years of being friendly with the cocaine, which was long enough."

"So now you're kind of mellowed out?" I ask.

"Oh, no," he replies in a blink. "I've found that when I did cocaine I sort of hid in a hotel room and kept away from people until I ran out, then I was a bit edgy. But when I was completely clear of it, most times I got really edgy, and I'm still the same way now. If I have a joint, it'll take the edge off. But I'm always on the go. Gotta play, gotta go to the next town, and arrr arrr arrg. So, mellow? No, I smoke joints to try to even things out, because it's an edgy life."

How long have he and Jason been together?

"An awful long time," he replied, then added that "recently we broke up again. I had another partner, and he had another partner, and life went on." They got back together for this tour, which MacIsaac said "was like 20 dates." Now that the US tour is finished, "we'll just go somewhere and hang out. Back to reality."

What do they like to do when there's down-time?

"Normally? Just sit around and smoke dope, and go to the beach, and have room service. We're settling down, I'm sure, in our future. Maybe we should go to Amsterdam and smoke up and spend the money there. I don't know. Anywhere fun."

Finally, as his tour manager yelled to MacIsaac that it was time for him to go on stage, I got in a final question: "What kind of response do you get from gay audiences?"

"I don't know if my audiences are gay or straight," MacIsaac said dryly. "I never have sex on stage." ▼

'I get romantic about rosin, I get romantic about fiddles.'

Kaysh Shim



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Fox and his friends

by Glen Helfand

Nalda Said by Stuart David (Tuttle Point Press, \$14.95)

Unreliable, mentally unstable narrators can often tell the most intriguing stories. Such literary characters are free of standard tenets of reality, and their perspective can be fascinating until it seems just plain crazy. It's a situation that offers undeniable challenge to writers who yearn to be cut loose from standard formats, yet spinning a yarn from the point of view of a seriously paranoid, deluded or neurotic perspective isn't easy. Madness by its very nature relates to alienation, and when we readers are shown the world through the eyes of a person with that perspective, well, it's difficult not to feel a little on the outside, too.

Nalda Said is a novel that takes the first-person perspective of a skittish, quasi-literate young gardener whose paranoia is founded in a questionable personal secret: that he holds a fabled diamond stolen by his father somewhere in the recesses of his colon. It's a se-

cret that causes him to inspect his feces, and panic when anyone gets too close emotionally. In the opening chapter of the book, the unnamed narrator chronicles a vibrant example of his m.o. While finishing a day of work in an English city park, a hunky, tattooed co-worker offers to show him some interesting thing he spotted somewhere in the bushes. What seems like a potentially homoerotic interlude of public sex leads down another scrubby path altogether, one that pushes our narrator's buttons.

The author, Stuart David, notable for being the bass player and a lyricist for the British cult band Belle and Sebastian, captures the palpable anxiety of the moment, but at the same time reveals his formidable stylistic challenge — this young writer attempts to create the voice of a narrator whose childlike qualities apply to his use of written language. The co-worker is referred to as "the boy with the pictures on his arms," a phrase that's used repeatedly.

If it brings to mind the lyrics of a song by The Smiths, well, Belle and Sebastian also sing with sadness, deadpan wit and youth-

ful ennui, taken with grains of salt. Their music is quirky and sweet, with many references to childhood surrealism.

Yet there's some very apparent self-consciousness in David's choice to refer to a modern primitive as "the boy with pictures on his arms." Writing a book with this kind of perspective isn't easy, and David, whose first novel this is, isn't a developed enough writer to pull it off consistently. If you can get past such phrases, there are modest pleasures to be had here.

The book, in the vein of Salinger's *Catcher in the Rye* and Jerzy Kosinski's *Being There*, is ultimately a bittersweet story of an innocent *idiot savant* with a psyche limited and compromised by family dysfunction and maybe congenital madness. It's an impressive achievement for a debut novel by a rock star.

He does this in ways that echo the approach of his band — sweetness that traffics in a sense of innocence, something we all want to reclaim. The songs are sophisticated pop that conflate grade-school perspectives with budding adult issues. (Sample lyric: "Take a walk in the park, take a Valium pill/Read the letter you got from the memory girl.")

Clippings file

The narrator of *Nalda Said* is a man-child who won't even admit his name, so two old biddies at the hospital where he works as gardener dub him Reynard because his reddish beard makes him look like a fox. ("I hadn't never thought, before, that I was anything like a fox although. In fact, I hadn't thought I was like anything much at all other people.") He seems to exist under his own shadow, affirming his own mythology in a secret diary of clippings he hides under a chair cushion. While his age is never given, he's old enough to have



ing uncontrollably and leaving Reynard to care for himself as a teen. It's his innocence that gives the novel its primary appeal, the way he timidly relates to a budding romance or simply tends to daily chores in extremely childlike ways. It's more difficult, however, to accept this character when he has his first experience going to a restaurant, where he asks his dinner companion about the "water with creatures inside" (the tank of fresh fish) and the "sticks on the table" (toothpicks).

At times like these, it almost seems that David shares the innocent purity as a writer. It's allowed him to tread, a bit tenuously, into this difficult literary territory. And, like his flawed yet lovable main character, there's something winning in the writing that you hope won't spoil as it becomes more knowing. ▼

Show tunes

Casts out on CDs

by Gregg Shapiro

cer tunes as "Any Place I Hang My Hat Is Home," "I Had Myself a True Love," and "Come Rain or Come Shine."

Now Is the Time for All Good Men (DRG/Columbia Masterworks) debuted off-Broadway in 1967, a time when the Broadway musical was more up for grabs than ever before. Writers Gretchen Cryer and Nancy Ford created a musical about free thinking and freedom of expression in Middle America during the 1960s.

Dream worlds

Maury Yeston is known for his unique choices in the subject matter of his musicals. The movies, for instance, inspired Yeston to craft *Nine* (based on Fellini's *8 1/2*) and *Grand Hotel* (based on the film of the same name). His musical *Titanic* opened on Broadway the same year that the movie of the same name broke all sorts of box-office records. Sixteen of the best and brightest performers on Broadway pay homage on *The Maury Yeston Songbook* (PS Classics). *Thoroughly Modern Millie*'s Sutton Foster performs "I Want To Go to Hollywood" (from *Grand Hotel*), Betty Buckley does *December Songs*, "I Had a Dream About You" (John McDaniels on piano), Brent Barritt sings "New Words" (from *In the Beginning*) and Brian d'Arcy James presents "Unusual Way" (from *Nine*).

Oscar Hammerstein II's contemporary adaptation of Bizet's *Carmen* was a groundbreaking theatrical event on Broadway in 1943. The CD reissue of *Carmen Jones* (Decca Broadway), "restored from the original lacquer glass discs," includes two songs, "You Talk Just Like My Ma" and "De Cards Don't Lie," which were deleted from the LP edition, and the bonus track "Beat Out Dat Rhythm on a Drum."

The 1998 cast recording of *St. Louis Woman*, starring Vanessa L. Williams, was part of the City Center *Encore!* series. With music and lyrics by Harold Arlen and Johnny Mercer, and book by Arna Bontemps and Countee Cullen (based on Bontemps' novel *God Sends Sunday*), *St. Louis Woman* contains such notable Arlen/Mer-

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Among the reissues of semi-page 39 ►

Confronting a sentence of sobriety

Augusten Burroughs attends gay rehab in his new memoir, 'Dry'

by David Lamble

In his hilarious, bestselling memoir *Running with Scissors*, Augusten Burroughs described a childhood that is, thankfully, beyond the imagination of many of us. Growing up in an emotionally troubled family, the father a mean drunk, the mother self-absorbed, narcissistic, delusional with yearnings to be a writer, the boy wonders which of his crazy parents will be the first to murder the other.

Rescue comes in the form of a finer madness: Augusten and his mother go off to live with a drug-dispensing shrink and his family. While mom is overmedicated, sexually and emotionally abused by the doctor, Augusten gets the daughter as his best friend. At the same time, he's sucked into a three-year sexual liaison with a 33-year-old named Neil Bookman, who lives in a shed in the backyard. *Running with Scissors* is an excellent how-to manual on both the logic and the pitfalls of intergenerational love.

Eventually, Augusten runs away from this circus and takes stock of his situation: "I was 17, I had no formal education, no job training, no money, no furniture, no friends. 'It could be worse,' I told myself. 'I could be going to a prom.'

In his just-published sequel, *Dry*, Augusten picks up his story eight years later. Having absorbed



the writing gene from his mother and the drinking gene from his Pop, our hero finds himself holding down a \$200,000-a-year advertising job.

"When I finally escaped, I presented myself to advertising agencies as a self-educated, slightly eccentric youth, filled with passion, bursting with ideas. I left out the fact that I didn't know how to spell or that I had been giving blowjobs since I was 13."

At 25, Augusten is drowning; he shows up at work late and drunk unable to sustain the illusion that he cares deeply about the Faberge egg account. Nights, he spends every spare moment pub-crawling so as to avoid the messy implications of an emotionally distant friendship with an HIV-

positive banker named Pighead, only to crash in the wee hours in a squalid one-bedroom apartment where 2,000 empty liquor bottles take up every square inch of floor and counter space.

When the ax finally falls at work, an intervention staged by his boss with some of the emotional vibes as the one enacted for Tony's nephew Christopher on the fourth season of *The Sopranos*, Augusten is given the choice of rehab or the street. Flirting with attending the Betty Ford Center, he instead opts for a 30-day gay rehab in what he imagines will be the sylvan hills of Minnesota.

"The cab driver asks where I'm going. I don't say, 'Proud... you know it? It's the gay rehab center in Duluth, and by the way my name is Augusten and I'm an alcoholic.'

"Had another drunk fag today," he will tell his wife over a dinner of honey-glazed ham and Betty Crocker scalloped potatoes. He'll shake his head. "And boy, was this one puffy."

Still running

Fans of *Running with Scissors* will find the first hundred pages of *Dry* just as laugh-out-loud funny as Burroughs, possessing the sagacity and totally black sense of humor of Joseph Heller, skewers modern advertising, drug treatment programs and the deeply eccentric souls trapped in or between these worlds. The AA

Affirmations present their own perverse kind of *Catch-22* logic: the notion that staying sober is a one-day-at-a-time, never-ending process, a life sentence from which death (or the kind of purgatory imagined by Dante) is the only possible parole.

One of the many ironies of staying sober is confronting the fears and cravings that drove you to drink in the first place. As Augusten struggles with his guilt about ignoring Pighead when his best friend most needs him, he finds a fuzzy man named Foster to fill the empty spaces. He finds himself falling into an obsessive relationship with ironic echoes of the one he had as a

teenager with the pedophile Bookman.

"I'm not supposed to be somebody from group therapy. There is almost no worse crime a recovering alcoholic can commit. Second would be cooking the head of another alcoholic in wine."

Dry is a *tour de force* trip through the worst places you can imagine, the private hells we are so good at creating for ourselves and the ones we ought to love. A modern masterpiece, *Dry* ranks along with *The Lost Weekend* and Gary Indiana's provocative novel of obsessive love, *Horse Crazy*, as the ultimate take on a society of broken dreams and second chances. ▼

'Glocal' village

by Jim Nawrocki

Mobile Cultures: New Media in Queer Asia edited by Chris Berry, Fran Martin, and Audrey Yue; Duke University Press, \$21.95

Mobile Cultures is not a light read. As an anthology of essays edited and written by academics, the pieces it contains put demands on the reader that are characteristic of academic writing in general. The prose is full of jargon. The essays draw heavily from the scholarly writing of a particular discipline (in this case, media and cultural studies). The editors and the contributors are, for the most part, professors of film, media and related disciplines.

But there are at least two good reasons that the general queer audience should be interested. First, as narrowly defined as this book seems, it addresses issues that will come to have increasing relevance in the years ahead. The countries that are (rightly or wrongly) defined as Asia comprise one of the most powerful economic and cultural forces in the world, and that influence can only be expected to increase. Similarly, the technologies defined as "new media" (the Internet, mobile phones, pagers, global television, etc.) are an equally expansive and increasingly influential force. This book examines how these forces are shaping each other among queer populations. Second, although much of what has already been written about new media is primarily theoretical, this book presents a "real world" study of new media as a cultural force in queer Asian communities.

One of the hot catchwords of current conversation about new media and communications theory is "convergence." Loosely defined, convergence is the notion that the various new media technologies will continue to come together and form innovative and more powerful offspring (that, for example, each home's television and computer will one day be the same machine). The forces that are driving convergence are as much cultural as they are economic or technological, and most of the essays in this book address the cultural side of this phenomenon. For those unfamiliar with the literature of recent new media and communications theory, the editors' introduction, "Beep-Click-Link," serves as a good survey of current thinking. It's difficult to write anything about current trends in what is called "CMC" (computer-mediated communication) because change happens so rapidly and spontaneously, but editors Chris Berry, Fran Martin, and Audrey Yue do a good job of mapping the emerging trends with respect to new media in queer Asia.

It takes a village

A common assumption about the Internet, mobile communications, television and related technologies is that they are fostering globalization. It's an idea that goes back to Marshall McLuhan's "global village." These days, however, globalization is usually associated with American cultural dominance and the obliteration of local cultures, and discussions about the issue tend to assume an opposition between global and local. The contributors of *Mobile*



Cultures favor a more nuanced, "transcultural" approach that avoids the easy opposition of global vs. local. Even within Asia, they point out, new media are not necessarily promoting a unified "one Asia," but seem to be fortifying the distinctive cultures (including queer cultures) within Asia. With respect to queer studies in particular, they invoke the idea of "glocalization," i.e., local, indigenous manifestations of what is commonly understood as the global queer culture.

As they promise in their introduction, Berry, Martin, and Yue present a collection of essays that rely less on theory and more on "materially grounded research." These are essays about real Asian communities — from scattered groups of gay men in South Asia to lesbians in Malaysia — using new media to redefine and strengthen their bonds. These essays present interesting examples of how new media are, at the same time, highly locally specific as well as global. For those intrigued by the intersection of communications technology and cultural identity, queer or otherwise, *Mobile Cultures* is worth consideration. ▼

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Staying connected

Cocteau's 'The Human Voice' on DVD

by Tavo Amador

When the openly gay French novelist, playwright, filmmaker and poet Jean Cocteau's (1889-1963) one-act drama *The Human Voice* (*La Voix Humaine*) opened in 1930, private telephones were common only among the upper classes, and problems with the technology were frequent. Crossed wires interrupted calls, sound faded in and out, lines suddenly became disconnected. They were black, bulky, and had long, heavy chords. Message machines, digital dialing, caller identification, and cellular telephones had not been invented.

Cocteau used these problems to add conflict to his stunning one-character play, filmed in color for television in 1966, starring the incomparable Ingrid Bergman and now released on DVD by Kultur (\$24.99). She plays a woman whose five-year affair with a younger man has ended. The film opens with a shot of a messy bedroom — ashtrays filled with cigarettes, the floor littered with a man's torn photograph, and a di-

sheveled woman awakening after having taken too many sleeping pills, a botched suicide. She stares at the telephone, desperate to hear from her ex-lover.

It's late, but he had promised to ring. At first, she's determined to be blase, to pretend she's just returned from a party, to tease him. "You're not jealous, are you, darling?" When the call comes, her voice betrays anxiety and relief. Their conversation is interrupted, and he must call back. He does. At first, she conceals her feelings, claiming she had been to lunch and dinner with her girlfriend, Margaret, and insisting she's fine, that he has nothing to worry about. Her ominous-looking German Shepherd growls as she paces. "He misses you and blames me," she half-jokes.

Slowly, her facade cracks. She suspects he's calling from his younger fiancee's house. Their call is disconnected and she telephones his apartment, to learn from his flat-mate that he's out and not expected to return that night. When he does call back, he lies, saying he is indeed home. She fights the desire to confront him.

Finally, she is overcome with grief and hysteria at their parting, and her battered emotions pour out. As he blames himself, she defends him. She had known this would happen. They had always been honest with each other. It's not his fault. She understands. Yes, she will be fine, even though she has cut herself off from all of her old friends because of him. They resent it and won't want her back in their lives. Now only the telephone connects her to him, and she clings to it desperately.



In a swift 50 minutes, Cocteau reveals more about obsessive love and loneliness than most writers

show in three hours. At 51, Bergman is perfectly cast: still striking, but no longer young, attractive enough to appeal to a younger man, yet doomed to lose him. Her innate romanticism and skill turn melodrama into tragedy, avoiding bathos.

Ted Kotcheff directed Clive Exton's adaptation of Cocteau's text. David Susskind and Lars Schmidt, the latter Bergman's husband, produced. The fine translation is by Carl Wildman. Highly recommended. ▼

Sundance cable

◀ Arts cover

dong's arms, his tears, shed for martyred students and the fight for democracy, seal his love for the older man, a love tested by their culture's demand that even gays marry. Blending sex, passion and betrayal, *Lan Yu* offers us a glimpse at a new kind of Chinese family. (6/14, 10 p.m.)



Lan Yu examines an intergenerational romance in Beijing.

tion, and I start responding like a trained monkey." A young woman avoids an arranged marriage and the expectations that she become "a baby-making machine."

The film's contrasting cultural poles are highlighted by thematically pointed dialogue. A guide explains, "This town [Agra, in Northern India] is not just famous for the Taj Mahal, but also for its lunatic asylum." A woman jokes to a female friend, "A



Gay pride in Rome in *The Devil... .*

The Devil in the Holy Water

Canadian documentary-maker Joe Balass witnesses the showdown between the Catholic Church and gay activists when a Christian jubilee shares street time with an international gay pride conference in the Pope's hometown. While older Catholics shake their heads, righteous young Roman queers proclaim their right to equal status. (6/16)



Schmidt and Friedrich, reunited.

Herr Schmidt und Herr Friedrich

In 1986, German filmmaker Wieland Speck shot the fiction feature *Westler - East of the Wall*, about two young Germans whose love affair is impeded by the Berlin Wall. Now documentarians Ulrike Franke and Michael Loeken present a true-life *Westler*.

Their film portrays the 25-year relationship between Wilfred Friedrich and Karl "Kuddel" Schmidt, once separated by the Wall, who now live together as retired pensioners, with their meticulously indexed photo albums and record collections adding spice to recollections about gay life in a divided Germany. (6/23)

Fire Minha Cara/That's My Face

African-American filmmaker Thomas Allen Harris uses a Super 8 camera on trips to Africa and Brazil, where he draws on dreams and childhood memories to find a link between his African ancestors and a Brazilian religion, *Candomblé*, based on the worship of ancient African gods. The Harvard-educated Harris draws on both his public-broadcasting training and his childhood roots in the African Methodist Episcopal Church to produce a unique film recording a spiritual quest. (6/9)

Dakota presents an unvarnished look at a uniquely American character: astride the back seat of a 1957 Cadillac, Jeffrey Strouth holds forth on sex, drugs and run-ins with the law. Rolling through the Ohio countryside, Strouth explains the role an abusive father played in the man he became. (6/30) ▼

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DISCS

Cities gone stark raving mad

Korngold's 'Tote Stadt,' Weill/Brecht's 'Mahagonny' out on DVD

by Philip Campbell

A pair of opera DVD releases tells a tale of two cities filled with obsessive love, disintegrating morality, and hedonism gone mad. Urban decadence and a man who can't let go of his dead lover may not be big news for us city slickers, but these rich morality plays should help to get everyone in the right mood for the SF Symphony's June *Innocence Undone* festival.



Erich Korngold: *Die tote Stadt* - Kerl; Denoke; Batukov; Svenden; Rhine Opera Chorus; Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra; Jan-Latham Koenig (ArtHaus Musik)

Korngold's celebrated opera received premieres in Hamburg

and Cologne in 1920, years before the composer fled the Nazis to Hollywood. It is an astonishingly accomplished work for a 23-year-old, but not surprising from a writer who would go on to fame in the California studio system.

This production is exciting proof that Korngold's serious scores deserve the attention they have been receiving recently. Too bad an over-ambitious director had to get her claws into the staging, because the results are so laden with banal symbolism, the musicians have to work overtime making sense of the drama.

The references to Hitchcock movies (*Vertigo* and *Psycho*) are apt, but why the director Inga Levant felt Korngold's work in Hollywood would give license for the heroine to stand over a vent while her skirt swirls up like Marilyn Monroe is beyond me.

The cabaret scene is switched to a dinner with an Elton John impersonator, and the nuns in the chorus are costumed somewhere between Sally Field and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The hero literally won't let go of the love he lost — he drags her corpse around like a moldy teddy bear.

When he finds redemption through Marietta, a morally ambiguous but life-affirming dancer, he pounds his hands' stigmata bloody against a door marked "No Exit." Puh-lease!

The settings are lavish and the costuming is, admittedly, imagina-

tive, but the real redemption for the dense and somewhat agonizing drama is the score. Richard Strauss is never far away, yet Korngold makes his own warm bath of lush chromatic harmony, and the flood of melody is intoxicating.

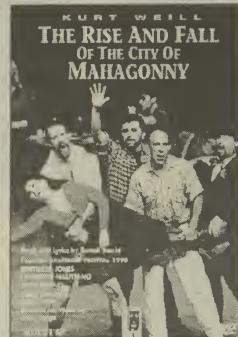
Torsten Kerl has a steady tenor, and he flings himself into the role of the tortured Paul, but he lacks power, and his singing lacks nuance. The Marietta of Angela Denoke is excellent, even if her soaring soprano is often unlovely. She manages the famous "Lied" well, and it is amusing to note her boxer and Doc Martens when her skirt blows up.

Birgitta Svenden and Yuri Batukov portray the other major roles of Brigitte and Frank in clear and securely sung performances.

The true hero is conductor Jan Latham-Koenig. With a sumptuous and responsive orchestra, he makes every note of the score sound with meaning.

That's more than can be said for Levant's bizarre self-indulgence. Nevertheless, for a dead city ("tote stadt"), there's a hot time in the old town of Bruges, and the final effect is curiously moving.

Kurt Weill/Bertolt Brecht: *The Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny* - Jones; Malfitano; Hadley; Duesing; Vienna State Opera Chorus; Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra; Dennis Russell Davies



Kurt Weill had to flee the Nazis, too, but he actually endured a National Socialist riot at the premiere of his opera in 1930. His scathing attack on capitalism touched a nerve then, and has only grown in relevance since.

In this 1998 production, the huge Salzburg stage is too big for the essentially chamber-textured score, and there is too much distracting business used to compensate. As the show progresses, early complaints evaporate as the sets become more complex and the large chorus is better employed. Stage director Peter Zadek's vision makes a riveting drama that grows in strength to a shattering conclusion.

Mahagonny is a city where being broke is a greater crime than murder, and profligacy is cel-

ebrated while everyone waits for somebody to get kicked.

The cast could not be bettered, as long as you can stand some pretty rough singing. The once-magnificent Gwyneth Jones is wrong vocally for the Widow Begbick — at this point, she might be wrong for almost anything — but her commanding presence and totally believable acting are astonishing.

Catherine Malfitano also sounds raw and insecure, yet her poignant Jenny is convincing. She looks too mature for the hesitant prostitute, but that plays to her favor.

Dale Duesing is in far better voice and looks hunky as Pennybank Bill. He catches the eye and ear whenever he appears — not least for his form in the boxing ring.

Best of all and quite a revelation is Jerry Hadley as Jim, executed when he can no longer pay for whisky. Hadley takes some amazing risks with his loopy sexiness and characterization. His voice is well-nigh perfect for the part. If bringing genuine appeal to a Brechtian anti-hero is no mean feat, he sails through with wit and pathos.

Every aspect of the splendid score is well-served. From jazz to show tunes to blues and symphonic counterpoint, Dennis Russell Davies leads the company to glory. The physical staging finally makes the most of the Salzburg stage, and the disturbing full female nudity in the last act (only because the men remain partially clothed) does make sense in context. The Salzburg *Mahagonny* is unmissable. ▼

Blowing the magic horn

Matthias Goerne does Mahler song cycle

by Jason Serinus

Mahler: *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* - Bonney, Goerne, Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra, Chailly (Decca)

It's most gratifying to discover baritone Matthias Goerne delivering Gustav Mahler's orchestral song cycle *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* with the same mesmerizing sensitivity and vocal beauty that he brought to his recent recording of Franz Schubert's *Die schöne Müllerin*.

Des Knaben Wunderhorn (*The Youth's Magic Horn*) was originally the title of a large collaborative collection of poems written in German folk style by Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano. From 1888 to 1902, Mahler wrote no fewer than two-and-a-half volumes of songs inspired by the collection. So important were the *Wunderhorn* poems to his output that the song "Urflicht" ("Primeval Light") became the fourth movement of his Symphony No. 2; "Des Antonius von Padua Fischpredigt" ("St. Anthony of Padua Preaches to the Fish") served as the basis of its third movement scherzo; and "Das himmlische Leben" ("The Heavenly Life") became the final movement of his Symphony No. 4.

According to Goerne, some of the *Wunderhorn* songs were an attempt on Mahler's part to criticize the growing militarism in Europe. Unfortunately, the baritone asserts, "Mahler's creation was not strong enough. It was impossible in this period to make the kind of

anti-war criticism in music that was later possible for Berg, Schoenberg, Eisler, Weill and Brecht. The words are incredible, but in the end, the climax of the harmonies is so strong that everyone forgets what you're telling them. The settings are so beautiful musically that they kill the effect of the texts."

Few vocal lovers will miss the bite of the line "I can and will not be merry!" with which baritone and orchestra launch the opening "Der Schildwache Nachtsicht" ("The Sentinel's Night Song"). Here, as in many of the *Wunderhorn* songs based on a poetic dialogue between "He" and "She," Goerne sings both parts, balancing the manly thrust of "his" martial tone with a gorgeous softening on "her" final sustained high note.

Bonney doin'

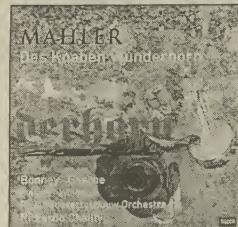
Soprano Barbara Bonney sings the jolly second song, "Wer hat dies Liedlein erdacht?" ("Who made up this ditty?") and four others. The choice of a soprano rather than mezzo to sing all but one of the songs here assigned to female voice is certainly valid, but the energy Bonney brings to the cycle is less satisfying than that of lustrous mezzo Christa Ludwig (Bernstein) or Anne Sophie von Otter (Abbado).

Bonney knows how to negotiate her low notes, and how to lighten her voice to lovely effect on mids and highs. Marvelous in "Wo die schönen Trompeten blasen" ("When the shining trumpets are blasting"), which she sings raptly with moving subtlety and care, she just misses the mark

elsewhere. A case in point is the glorious extended vocal movement that concludes Mahler's Fourth Symphony.

Bonney's interpretation of this child's view of heavenly paradise swings between welcome naive sweetness and inappropriate maturity, as though she isn't exactly sure of whom she is. There's certainly much to admire, but far less to cherish.

No such case with Goerne. The man is brilliant. With a voice alternately virile and achingly tender, he



gives Mahler's creation with the steady flow of beauty it deserves. Chailly provides fine, transparent accompaniment, and mezzo Sara Fulgoni and tenor Gosta Winbergh do well with the one song each assigned to them. But ultimately it's Goerne's show, and Mahler is all the better for it. ▼

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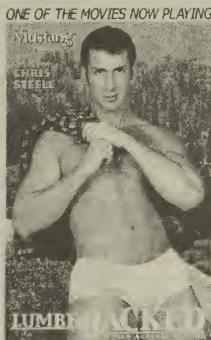
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Lower Lounge Screen: 4 movies change Wednesday
Upper Lounge Screen: 3 movies change Friday

OUT & ABOUT

Fri 30

'Cowboy Mouth'
@ Theatre Rhino Studio

Opening Night: Mostly Grounded Theater Company and Theatres Rhinoceros present playwright Sam Shepard and punk goddess Patti Smith's tribute to the rock-and-roll aesthetic, "Cowboy Mouth." Slim, a "saint with a cowboy mouth," is kidnapped at gunpoint by Cavale, a woman obsessed with finding her rock-and-roll savior. Written in the Chelsea Hotel in Manhattan where Shepard and Smith took up residence in 1971. Starring John Pirruccello, Amanda Korpitz, and Mark Routhier. \$10-\$15. 8:30pm. Thru June 22. 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.mostlygrounded.com

'Thwak' @ Post Street Theatre

Grand Opening Show: The new Post Street theatre (formerly Theatre On The Square) presents The Umbilical Brothers in "Thwak," featuring Australians Shane Dundas and David Collins armed only with microphones, their rubber bodies, and an uncanny knack for mimicking every sound imaginable. A subversive funhouse. \$25 opening weekend (thru June 1); \$30-\$45 regular prices. 8pm Tue-Fri; 2pm & 8pm Sat; 2pm Sun. 450 Post St. (1/2 blk off Union Square). Tix/info: 321-2900; poststreettheatre-sf.com

MAX's 'Club Hairspray'

@ **Elevation Salon & Café** Men's Associated Exchange (MAX) celebrates its 15th anniversary with "Club Hairspray," featuring entertainment, complimentary cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, go-go boys and more. Casual chic or '60s drag encouraged. \$20 door (proceeds support "Help is on the Way 9: Red Hot Broadway," on July 28, benefiting five Bay Area AIDS service organizations). 6-9pm. 451 Bush St.

Sat 31

'The Q Ball' @ The Center

National Queer Arts Festival 2003, organized by the Queer Cultural Center, presents "The Q Ball," the opening night GAY-ia! All Free! Eyeball the pre-ball visual openings building-wide (6-7:30pm) by Point Blank Photographic's Group (Dusty Lombardo, Rebecca McBride, and Cara Gurney) and Rudy Lemcke's cycle of video projections, "The Forgetfulness of Being." The "Yo Pink Carpet Reception" happens at 7:30pm, then it's time for "The Spot Light" with live performance teasers from past and present NQAFs, hosted by Sini Anderson (8-9pm; Rainbow Room/Ceremonial Room), including comedians Marga Gomez, Monica Palacios, and Carmelita Tropicana, among other acts; then on to the "Q Lounge" (top floor, 9pm), with DJs, spoken word, and more. Free. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Info: 340-0722; queerculturalcenter.org

'Black & White Ball'
@ **Civic Center**

Mercedes-Benz USA presents the Black & White Ball® at several Civic Center locations. Davies Symphony Hall: Michael Tilson Thomas conducts the SF Symphony. Civic Center Plaza Tent: rock to Les Claypool Frog Brigade (9pm), Berlin with Terri Nunn (10:40pm), & Joan Jett & The Blackhearts (12:20am). Bill Graham Civic Auditorium: groove to Porter



Flag and its creator, Gilbert Baker. Joining in the festivities will be Baker, AIDS Memorial Quilt creator Cleve Jones, and Phyllis Burke, author of *Gender Shock* and a new work commissioned especially for this anniversary, "Cleve and Gilbert, Gilbert and Cleve." Live music by The Woodyz, SF's lesbian-in-drag big band doing hot rockin' twisted '50s tunes. \$10-\$15 sliding. 1-3pm. 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org

'Queer-A-Palooza'
@ **SomArts**

NQAF presents "The 2nd Annual Queer-A-Palooza & Drag King Junior Contest." An open-gendered house party buffet of genderplay & performing arts, with "Cabaret-stitute," workshops on kinging and self-defense, alternative fashion show "Mixed Fruit Word Jam," bands, DJs and the "Drag King Junior Contest." Prizes & give-aways. \$10-\$15 sliding (\$5 in drag). 3pm-1am. 934 Brannan St. (at 8th St.). Info: 340-0722; queerculturalcenter.org

'Sacred Art of You' @ **Aloft**

Workshop: "The Sacred Art of You," a full day of fearless art making with Seth Eisen. For all who want to start, rekindle or reclaim a personal art practice. Eisen is a visual and performing artist who has been coaching artists, teaching visual arts, and operating thriving art studios for 14 years. \$100 (incl. materials; work-study available). 10am-7pm. Aloft, 25A McLea (at 9th btwn Harrison & Bryant). Info/res: 410-7551; eyezen@hybridfarms.com

Murder mystery

@ **Archbishop's Mansion**

Incentives To Intrigue presents "The Daddy, the Diva, and the Detective," a humorous murder mystery dinner at an historic mansion/B&B in Alamo Square, adapted from a script by comedian Danny Williams. Directed by Jim Skiba; starring Donna Sachet and Lenny Broberg. The action happens during a reception and dinner. The Empress (Sachet) and the Leatherman (Broberg) act as the hosts. Guests will have a multitude of clues and each team will complete a solution card before dessert. A portion of the proceeds goes to the AIDS Emergency Fund. No-host bar. \$85 (includes a 3-course dinner). 6:30-9:30pm. Sundays in June (no show on Jun 29). The Archbishop's Mansion, 1000 Fulton St. (at Steiner). Tix/B&B packages: 626-2950; incentivestointigue.com

Executive Director Joan M. Garry. \$375 Preferred Seating, Pre-Reception/Auction, VIP After-Party, VIP Gift Bag; \$175 General Seating, Pre-Reception/Auction, Hosted Cocktails and Silent Auction: 5pm Dinner and Media Awards Show; 7pm, 335 Powell St. Tix: Levy, Pazanti & Associates at (888) 655-6529 or (310) 201-5033.

Jazz @ Intersection

Meet the Composer, a national organization based in New York, presents the Beth Custer Ensemble, Francis Wong Quartet, Marcus Shelby Trio and Jazz Orchestra, William Cepeda, and Barbara Kolb. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. Info/tix: 626-3311; theintersection.org

Sun 1

HMI Rainbow Flag Salute
@ **The Center**

The Harvey Milk Institute opens Pride Month with a salute to the Rainbow



Lenny Broberg and Donna Sachet play the heavies in *The Daddy, the Diva, and the Detective*, a murder mystery dinner at the Archbishop's Mansion on Alamo Square. See Sunday.

Mon 2

'Last Word Poetry' @ **Pegasus Bookstore, Berkeley**

"Last Word Poetry Series" (first Mondays) presents champion slam poet Thea Hillman, author of *Depending on the Light*, and Poetry & Pizza series co-facilitator Glenn Ingwersen, author of such chapbooks as *Ed's Needs and City Walks*. A 30-minute open reading precedes the features. 7pm. 2349 Shattuck, downtown Berkeley. Info: 510-649-1320.

'QComedy Showcase'

@ **The Center**

Canadian comic Elvira Kurt hosts "QComedy Showcase," featuring Scott Capurro, Zoe Dunning, Yayne Abeba, Ray Ferrer, and Bridget Schwartz. Kurt, voted "Funniest Female Comic" at the Canadian Comedy Awards, has a hit series (*Elvira Kurt: Adventures in Comedy*) on Canada's Comedy Network, performed in *The Vagina Monologues*, and debuted her one-woman show *Viva Elvira!* in LA and Toronto. \$10-\$15 sliding, 7pm reception; show at 8pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia). Tix/info: 865-5633; www.harveymilk.org



QueLACo/NQAF Event: Ricardo Bracho's *Querido*, at The Center. See Tuesday.

Tue 3

Ricardo Bracho's 'Querido'

@ **The Center**

QueLACo (Queer Latino/a Artists Coalition) and the National Queer Arts Fest present a staged reading of New York-based poet and playwright Ricardo Bracho's new play *Querido*, an adaptation of Jean Genet's novel and Rainer-Werner Fassbinder's film, *Querelle*, commissioned by The Latino Theatre Initiative of the Mark Taper Forum. Read by Jaime Cortez, Prado Gomez, Al Lujan, Gigi Otalvaro-Hormillosa and Norman Zelaya, followed by a brief Q&A with Bracho. \$7-\$12. 6pm reception; 7pm reading. Rainbow Room, SF LGBT Community Center. Info: 340-0722; queerculturalcenter.org

'Brazen Femmes'

@ **The Center**

National Queer Arts Fest presents *Brazen Femmes: Queering Femininity*, readings from a sharp-edged collection of writings, "a manifesto for the unrepentant bitch" that recognizes femme as an identity in flux. Featuring Chloë Brushwood Rose, Anna Camilleri and Michelle Tea. \$10-\$20 sliding. 8pm. Ceremonial Room, SF LGBT Community Center. Info: 340-0722; queerculturalcenter.org



NQAF Event: *Brazen Femmes* with Chloë Brushwood Rose and Anna Camilleri. See Tuesday.

Jazz @ Intersection

24-year-old jazz drummer Jaz Sawyer joins with The Pursuers (David Ewell, bass; Joe Ryan, trumpet/flugelhorn; Danny Grewen, trombone/vocal; Charles McNeil, saxophones), performing original compositions from Sawyer's forthcoming CD *Itz Time*. Sawyer has collaborated with Wynton Marsalis, Abbey Lincoln and Irvin Mayfield, among others. \$12-\$15. 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Info: 626-3311; theintersection.org.



Kate Corby and Dancers perform *Rough Drafts* at 848 Community Space. See Wednesday.

Wed 4**Kate Corby & Dancers
@ 848 Community Space**

Kate Corby & Dancers present "Rough Drafts," nine choreographic works in progress by Corby, Ann Berman, Zoe Maa Fye, Huckabee McAllister, Dance, Elly Karl/Foot and Meter Performance Works, and Peck Dance Ensemble. Audience encouraged to give feedback at post-show reception. \$10-\$12 (NOTAFLO). 7pm. Also on June 5. 848 Divisadero St. Tix/info: 642-0122; www.848.com

**Lawrence Pech Dance Co.
@ YBCA Forum**

The Lawrence Pech Dance Company presents "Works in the Works," its annual works-in-progress showcase, a first-hand look at new pieces in an intimate, open-rehearsal setting. This year's program will feature creations by Co-Artistic Directors Lawrence Pech and Wendy Van Dyck, along with Bay Area choreographer Danielle Martinelli. \$25 general, \$15 seniors, students, kids under 12. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts - Forum, 701 Mission (at Third St.). Tix/info: 978-ARTS (2787); www.LawrencePechDance.org.

Thu 5**'Local Lavender Screen Scene' @ Main Library**

"Local Lavender Screen Scene: Saluting Bay Area Queer Filmmakers," presents *I Shall Not Be Removed: the Life of Marlon Riggs* (1998, 58 min.), a film produced and directed by Karen Everett, depicting the life and talent of controversial gay black Oakland filmmaker, including clips from eight of his films. Free. 12 noon. Koret Auditorium, Lower Level. Civic Center



NQAF Event: Beth Lisick and Tara Jepson show what partnering is all about in *Oui de Deux* at SomArts Theatre. See Thursday.



Members of the Stephen Pelton Dance Theater perform *Harm's Way* and *Not Here* at Dance Mission Theater. See Thursday.

'Ba-da-Bingo' @ MCC-SF

Join Peaches Christ, star of "Midnight Mass," as she guest-MCs at "Mambo Bingo!" Peaches will be joined by Sister Edith and the live Mambo Street band! Your \$12 admission gets you 10 games of bingo with cash prizes of more than \$1,700 total, special gifts, and entertainment galore. Player in best mambo outfit wins \$50. Your regular hostess, Sister Betty, is heading cross-country for the "Change for Change Campaign" (details at www.SisterBetty.org/roadtrip). 7pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: www.BadaBingo.org

**'Flower Power Shavu'ot'
@ Sha'ar Zahav**

All Night Study Session. Jewish tradition says Mt. Sinai was covered with flowers when the people of Israel received the Torah. Come blossom on Shavu'ot, as Congregation Sha'ar Zahav celebrates this most floral of Jewish holidays. Service begins at 7:30 pm, with study sessions to follow. Come when you want and stay as late as you want. Feel free to wear some flowers in your hair. Service followed by studying, singing & food. Free to the public. 290 Dolores St. (corner 16th St.). 7:30 pm. Info: Melanie Kushner, 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

**'The Firebrat'
@ ADL Bookstore**

A Different Light Bookstore presents David McConnell reading from his debut novel, *The Firebrat*. Joining him for the reading is Lambda Award nominee Krandall Kraus reading from *The Christmas Poems*. Free. 7:30pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891; www.adlbooks.com

Stephen Pelton**@ Dance Mission Theater**

Opening night: Stephen Pelton Dance Theater presents "Not Here," celebrating the company's 10th anniversary, with guest artists Janice Garrett & Dancers ("Higher Thither"). Two group works and the eve's title work, a solo dance performed by Noli Simonse, commissioned by Ballet Central of London (UK). A new prologue to last year's "Harm's Way" (to be repeated), "Not Here" is choreographed around images of fear, suspicion and anxiety. Also featuring Sally Clawson, Christy Funsch, and Sue Roginski. \$15. (for opening night, bring food or drink to share at a reception). 8pm (7pm Sun). Thru June 8. 3316 24th St. (at Mission). Tix: 273-4633.

Jerry Granelli @ Mezzanine

"Congregation," under the guidance of DJ David Harness, welcomes a live collaboration with jazz drummer Jerry Granelli, who has more than 40 years in the biz as a member of the Denny

Zeitlin trio and has worked with Ornette Coleman, Charlie Haden, Mose Allison, Lou Rawls, Sly Stone, and the Vince Guaraldi Trio ("Peanuts" theme song), among others. \$7. door. 9pm-late (performance at midnight). 21+w/ID. 444 Jessie St. Info: 820-9669.

TR Colletta**@ Caldwell Snyder Gallery**

Opening reception: "TR Colletta," a one-man show by the artist whose oil paintings of angelic nudes appeared in Castro store windows in 1994. His latest series, "American Icons," offers realistic paintings of classic 20th century objects. Free. 6-8pm. 341 Sutter St. Info: caldwellnsnyder.com

Edith Head @ Mechanics' Institute Library

Author David Chierchetti reads from *The Life and Times of Hollywood's Celebrated Costume Designer Edith Head*, about the woman who designed costumes for such films as *All About Eve*, *Sunset Boulevard*, and *The Ten Commandments*. \$10 (\$7 members). 6pm. 57 Post St. Info: 393-0100; www.millibrary.org

**Zeltzman, Lisick & Jepson
@ SomArts**

National Queer Arts Fest presents "Torn Paper Tears Easy," a mixed genre show by Dominique Zeltzman combining dance, narrative, video, aerial trapeze, sewing and installation to humorously address suicide, isolation and fantasy. Plus Beth Lisick & Tara Jepson (*Oui de Deux*) share a comic take on the earnest teaming of artists. Plus the sincere, beautiful music stylings of Katy Davidson. \$12 adv; \$15 door. 8pm. SomArts Theater, 934 Brannan St. Info: 340-0722; queerculturalcenter.org



NQAF Event: Torn Paper with Dominique Zeltzman, at SomArts Theatre. See Thursday.

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Mister Marcus

The winners at IML 2003 last Sunday, May 25 in Chicago, from left: First runner-up Stephen Blackwell (Mr. LA Leather); IML 2003 John Pendal of London (The Hoist); and Don Dotson (Mr. Sun Coast Leather).

Londoner takes Chicago

John Pendal is Int'l. Mr. Leather 2003

by Mister Marcus

While thousands of leather folks cheered and a blizzard of confetti fell from the ceiling of the Congress Theater last Sunday evening, May 25, John Pendal — Mr. Hoist-London — was announced the winner of the 25th International Mr. Leather competition. The first runner-up was Donald Dotson (Mr. Suncoast Leather) of St. Petersburg, Florida, and the second runner-up was Stephen Blackwell, Mr. Los Angeles Leather.

Shortly before those revelations, San Francisco's Richie Chamroy, sponsored by Daddy's

and the Powerhouse Bars, was voted by IML package holders as International Mr. Bootblack 2003, a contest with more than a dozen contestants.

Bedlam reigned in the house as some 59 contestants from around the world gave a spectacular show with lots of skin and cogent speeches for an adoring audience that dispensed applause and gratitude throughout the evening.

The top 20 of the IML Class of 2003 were: Larry Barat (Mr. DC Eagle); Mark Colley (Mr. Louisiana Leather); Douglas Con-

nors (Mr. Ottawa Leather); Vince Edd (Mr. Ebony in Leather from Seattle); Ken Siegel (Mr. Texas Leather); Wayne Fleshman (Mr. Mountain Leather from Charleston, West Virginia); Peter Hagenauer (Mr. Leather Germany); Richie Johnson (Mr. Oklahoma Leather); Michael Jupe (Bavarian Mr. Leather); Brian Kurtela (Mr. Central California Leather-Sacramento); Fernando Manzali (Mr. Leather Europe, from Rome, Italy); Dennis Mascher (Mr. Tri-State Leather from Cincinnati),

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 29

There's live wrestling at the Powerhouse Bar tonight. The action usually starts around 2200. You should check it out.

Sunday, June 1

It's Ray Tilton's 40th birthday and he's having a beer/soda bash at Daddy's today from 1600 to 2000. Snatch & Berlin will entertain with the usual raffle, auction, all to raise funds for Mama's "Outlaws" softball team.

Weekend, June 4-7

International Deaf Leather weekend in Orlando, Florida with most of the action at the Full Moon Saloon. Host hotel is the Marriott Downtown (800-547-3160). For more info: idlcontest@aol.com.

Sunday, June 8

"Giving Back" is a recital by David Dehner on the Big Organ at Mission Dolores Basilica, at 1700, to benefit Inter-Club Fund. It's \$15 general admission and only \$10 for seniors and the disabled.

Tuesday, June 10

The big fundraiser for the AIDS Emergency Fund at Club Mezzanine with ducats at \$125. A casino, silent auction and entertainment while heavy volunteers are honored.

Weekend, June 13-15

Mama Reinhardt's big annual Family Reunion all weekend at the Triple R in Guerneville. This one is always wild...check it out.

Friday, June 13

The 2nd Leather Sir & boy contest takes place for

the Northeast Region in New York City tonight at the LGBT Center (208 W. 13th St.) Connie Cox and Mike Marino have all in readiness.

Saturday, June 14

20th annual Leather Pride Night in New York the mammoth annual fundraiser at the Puck Building with leather celebs from all over. For more info, click on www.LeatherPrideNight.org.

Russian River Leather Sir/boy contest tonight. Details to be announced. Winners advance to No. California Leather Sir/boy later this year.

Wednesday, June 18

Ray Tilton will produce Mama's Leatherman Contest tonight at the Loading Dock. Doors open 1900, contest at 2000. For more info and application forms, email to: sfraytilton@aol.com.

Saturday, June 21

Sacramento Leather Sir/boy contests at the Bolt in Sacramento at 2200 tonight.

Sunday, June 22

Folsom Street East (FSE) street fair in New York City today (not to be confused with FSE San Francisco), at 13th St. & 9th Ave., to benefit the Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project, NCSF, the LGBT Center and GMSMA. For more info: www.folsomstreeteast.org.

Saturday, June 28

Palm Springs Leather Sir/boy contests in Cathedral City tonight. Winners advance to So. California regional. For more info: www.thebarracksbar.com.

POLKSTRASSE

No more Reflections

by Sweet Lips

ope you all had a great Memorial Day Weekend, as I did with the fabulous Mane of Portland and Bob here for festivities. The Castro will never be the same!

Well, we have lost another Polk Street institution — Reflections Cocktails at 1160 Polk St. is closing at the end of this week after a 15-year run. Before it was Reflections, it was Masks, and Hunks, part of the hopping gay scene in the 1970s. It will be missed.

Yes, it is true that Little Mikey will soon be coming to the Club Rendez-Vous. He'll make a great addition to the staff.

That talented Woody is still

doing his thing at the Cinch on Polk Street, and he's attracting a horde of beautiful people, so join him for a few.

Just a reminder: Every first Saturday of the month, Out of the Closet, the fab second-hand clothing store at Polk and California, holds its \$1 Park-ing Lot Sale from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and they have lots of goodies.

The Sacramento Coronation was dominated by San Francisco royalty. Emperor Steve Rasher, Empress José, Bella and Pat Montcalire Franklin Townsend were there and said that José's singing voice was fabu-

lous — as always! L. James tells me that the Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St., between Bush and Pine) has "Positive Force" each first Tuesday of the month, and the wonderful Karaoke night on Wednesday from 10:30 p.m. till Midnight. And don't forget the great "Til Friday shows,

also from 10:30 p.m. to Midnight, on Friday nights. If you haven't seen these shows, do come on down. They're hilarious, with lots of talent.

The lovely Dee Dee is still at Aunt Charlie's on Turk Street weekends, mixing up drinks. Miss ya, honey! ▼

**Cocktail Hour****Mister Marcus**

◀ previous page

Mike Sinnott (Mr. Edmonton Leather-Canada); Dav Thomas (Mr. Florida Leather); Adrian Williams (Mr. Cell Block Leather-Chicago); Walt Weiss (Mr. LURE-New York); and Juan Zazueta (Mr. Deaf San Diego Leather).

Vocalist and cabaret star Sharon McNight, no stranger to thousands of adoring fans, plunged the audience into a raving, lustful throng as she belted out her imitable version of "The Masochistic Tango," followed by another called "Everybody's Fucking But Me" — which is included on her latest CD!

Later, Ms. McNight regaled close to 1,000 leather folk from the staircase of the Empire Room in the lobby of the Palmer House to tumultuous applause.

The opening of the show included a half-dozen sturdy lads in a lustful display of precise ballet that was well received. In the second half, a trapeze group a la *Cirque du Soleil* thrilled the crowd with their daring acrobatic show.

The SoMa Bar/Chest Calendar 2004 made its debut in the IML Leather Mart, a three-floor conglomeration of leather goods, videos, toys and other fetish paraphernalia. More than 400 of the calendars were sold, and several leather businesses signed on to sell the calendar in their stores around the country.

Mr. Ebony in Leather 2003

The Mister Ebony in Leather contest on Friday night drew a big crowd as four men competed for the title. Queen Cougar teamed up with porn actor Bobby Blake to emcee the competition, and Mr. Blake seemed quite taken aback by an intense onstage whipping demo.

When all the scores were tallied, Mr. Detroit Eagle Leather Peter Mitchell won the title. The first runner-up was Dale Robertson. The other two contestants were Jay Hines and John "Poppe" Conway.

The Opening Ceremony on



San Francisco's Richie Chameroy, left, seen here with IML producer Bill Stadt, was voted International Mr. Boot Black 2003 in Chicago during the IML 2003 weekend.

Thursday night saw a plethora of local and international dignitaries throughout and introduction of the contestants who drew their numbers for order of appearance.

A greeting from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and Mayor Willie Brown were presented to IML founder Chuck Renslow. On Saturday at the Pecs and Personality Show, a greeting from California Assemblyman Mark Leno was presented to Mr. Renslow to thunderous applause.

There are a thousand tales emanating from IML 2003, the silver anniversary of a well-established institution for the leather nation. The staff of the Palmer House Hilton went out of their way to be helpful at every turn with dining rooms open almost all-night and well-stocked bars at every turn. The IML weekend weddings were taking place all over the premises and (no name mentioned here)

one contestant left his IML medallion in the room of a stranger he met; He knew only the man's first name, and the floor where the tryst took place, and had to sleuth around with the maids on that floor to recover it. Needless to say the word got out all over the place. The only clue I can give you is that he was one of the top 20 of the IML Class of 2003!

The parties over the weekend took place in and out of the hotel and were too numerous to mention here, but I will tell you this: the San Francisco party was the only one without a cash register.

Members of the media were there in full force, including radio, TV and print journalists. If it weren't for digital cameras and camcorders, the local photo stores could have made a fortune.

There's more, much more, but it will have to wait until next week. See you all then! ▼

Show tunes

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obscure musicals is *Runaways* (DRG/Columbia Masterworks), which was written, composed and directed by Elizabeth Swados, and premiered on Broadway in 1978. In the liner notes, Swados described *Runaways* as "a collage

about the profound effects of our deteriorating families." Tapping "the energy of young people," in a cast that included Diane Lane, Trivi Alvarado, Josie De Guzman and Carlo Imperato, Swados examined alternative families through music and dance.

If you can't get enough of cast recording reissues, DRG Records is your source. Among DRG's

other reissues you will find *First Impressions* (with Polly Bergen, Farley Granger and Hermione Gingold), Johnny Mercer's *Top Banana* (with Phil Silvers), Herbert and Dorothy Fields' *By the Beautiful Sea* (with Shirley Booth), and Anne Croswell's *Ernest in Love* (based on Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest*). ▼

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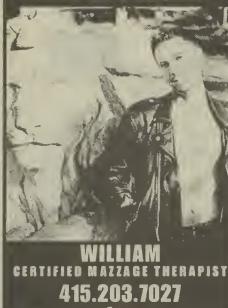
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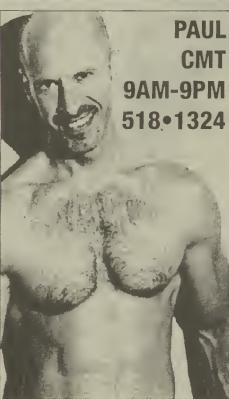
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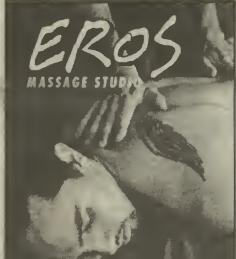
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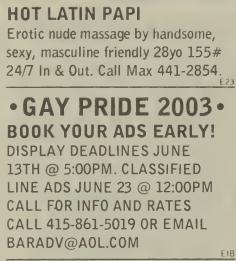
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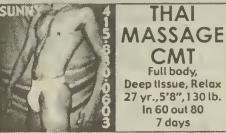
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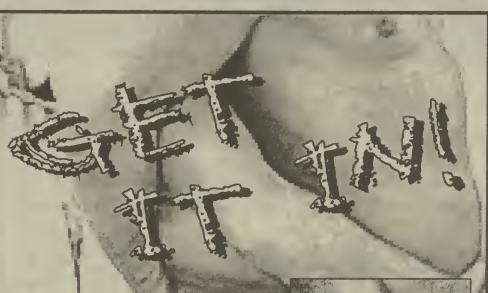
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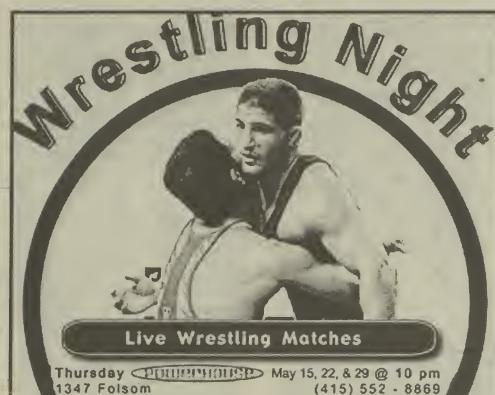
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E20

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E22

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FRIDAY, JULY 25TH

at the Eagle Tavern. For more info,
 email to: DadlynSF@aol.com.

Assert your masculinity! Are you man
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E23

Wanted Male video models. Call
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E22

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DISPLAY DEADLINES
 JUNE 13TH @ 5:00PM.
 CLASSIFIED

LINE ADS JUNE 23 @ 12:00PM
 CALL FOR INFO AND RATES
 CALL 415-861-5019 OR EMAIL
 BARADV@AOL.COM

E18

San Francisco's #1 Gay Dateline
 Call: 1-900-255-2221. \$2.99 min.
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E25

Great cocksucker 285-8390

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Body Trim & Shave "Castro Area
 Location". Call 4 aptmt 626-1168

E26

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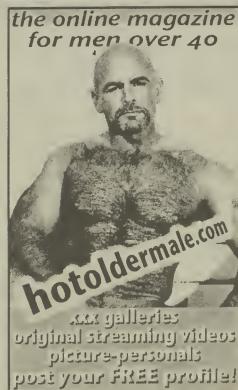
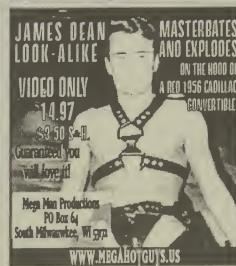
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PositiveForce

Just Added: unwrapping *The Gift* | June 21

Join us to screen *The Gift*, a controversial new documentary presented by Frameline at the 27th San Francisco International Lesbian & Gay Film Festival. Then stick around for a discussion about barebacking and bug-chasing, moderated by the STOP AIDS Project, with panelists including filmmaker Louise Hogarth and community members. (Please purchase tickets in advance at www.frameline.org.)

SATURDAY | 2:30pm |
Castro Theatre | 429 Castro
Street (at Market Street)

positive space > polk | June 3

Polk's friendliest staff makes this a view of your own. When we're there, it's the best balcony in the Bay. Join other HIV+ gay/bi men at one of our regular events and speak your mind, bare your soul and get connected. No drama, no issues — we'll even provide the topic of conversation (and snacks).

TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Club Rendez-Vous | 1312 Polk Street (at Bush Street)

positive space > friday social | June 13

Last month's movie night was so much fun we're doing it again! Come join the guys of Positive Force and watch a favorite gay-genre film. Popcorn, soda & topic of conversation on us.

FRIDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Location: TBA

plus additions | June 17

Have you been to a PLUS Seminar but would like a chance for in-depth exploration on a particular subject? Missing that weekend bond and want to re-connect with participants? PLUS Additions hit one topic hard each month. Call the P-Force info line at 415.865.0790 x306 for more information or just drop by.

TUESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Positive Force Offices | 539 Castro Street (18th/19th)

café positive | June 19

Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Café Positive, the daytime social support event that's open to everyone and hosted by the volunteers of the Castro Country Club. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment newsflash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us!

THURSDAY | 1 - 3pm | Castro Country Club | 4058 18th Street (Castro/Hartford)

positive space > h café | June 25

Bring your gift of gab to this coffee talk. Where better to get through your Hump Day than with the men of Positive Force?

WEDNESDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | H Café | 380 17th Street (at Sanchez Street)

positive space > soma | June 26

Is SOMA your neighborhood? Think the Castro is just a little too chi-chi? This is Positive Space with a leather twist. Come see and be seen. Join other HIV+ gay/bi men at one of our regular events and speak your mind, bare your soul and get connected. No drama, no issues — we'll even provide the topic of conversation (and snacks).

THURSDAY | 6:30 - 8pm | Powerhouse | 1347 Folsom Street (at Dore Alley)



June

p-force in motion >

San Francisco Lesbian/Gay Freedom Day Parade

March with Positive Force in the Parade and show your pride. After the parade many of the members of Positive Force will be volunteering to share information about Positive Force and the PLUS Seminar. If you are interested in being a volunteer that day contact 415 865-0790 x 305

June 29 | For up-to-date info contact
the P-Force info line @ 415 865-0790 x 306



Volunteer with
STOP AIDS!

E-mail us at:
volunteer@stopaids.org
or call (415) 575-0155
for information.

**STOP AIDS
PROJECT**

Positive Force is a program
of the STOP AIDS Project
by and for all HIV+
gay and bi men.

